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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 138
Available from Wednesday,
May 19, 2010

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the right choice

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FACE OF A KILLER

Christopher Goldfinch, who struck the fatal blow during a cowardly attack on father-of-six Paul Hopkins, pleaded guilty to manslaughter with fellow thug Scott Stevens at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

■ BY ED HILL

TWO thugs from Ashford who beat a father-of-six to death admitted manslaughter this week.

Christopher Goldfinch, of Falcon Way, and Scott Stevens, of Augustus Walk, appeared in at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday.

The pair, both aged 23, had been charged with the murder of Paul Hopkins, 32, who suffered severe head injuries in the attack outside his home in Beechholme Drive, Kennington, last August.

Mr Hopkins never regained consciousness and died more than three months later at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Anthony Prosser, prosecuting, told the court he had been approached by the defence three weeks before the trial date and informed that Goldfinch and Stevens intended to plead guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter.

After consulting the Crown Prosecution Service and Mr Hopkins's family, the prosecution agreed the plea was acceptable and Mr Prosser said he would not be offering any evidence regarding the murder charge.

Mr Prosser said no weapons were used in the attack and the victim's injuries were mainly caused by punches to the head.

Timothy Roberts, defending Goldfinch, said he requested a pre-sentencing report be prepared for his client.

He said the defence admitted Goldfinch had been responsible for the fatal blow on Mr Hopkins, but he had used his left hand and not his right, as stated by one witness.

The defence also denied Mr Hopkins had

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your lifestyle

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MP welcomes ministerial role in immigration

MP DAMIAN Green has been made Minister for Immigration, taking over from Labour's Phil Woolas.

Mr Green, who has been in Parliament since 1997, held the shadow role for four and a half years before being confirmed in the post last Thursday, following the Conservative and Lib Dem decision to form a coalition.

Mr Green told Yourashford he was very pleased with the appointment.

He said: "This is a chance for new politics – it's an exciting time. We've got the chance to form a stable Government; we've got to make it work."

Asked whether he was happy to be given the ministerial role he had shadowed, he said: "It's obviously a big, important job, but anyone who expects to be appointed is setting themselves up for disappointment."

Immigration has been a contentious issue between the two parties, with the Tories calling for a cap on economic migration by non-EU migrants and the Lib Dems pushing for an amnesty to allow long-standing illegal immigrants the chance to earn the right to British Citizenship.

Mr Green said: "The policy document says the Liberal Democrats will accept our cap on immigration. There will not be an amnesty, but one area that was a Lib Dem policy is the detention of children. That will be one of the first things we will be looking at.

"We haven't got a cap figure yet; this is something we will be discussing with business leaders and public service officials and will be decided at a later date."

The MP, who was back in Ashford on Friday carrying out his con-



NO AMNESTY: MP Damien Green

stituency engagements, said he was ready for the extra work that being a minister entailed.

He said: "I was busy, now I am going to be even busier. I have already been to the Home Office and have been given a huge pile of reading that I have to get through over the weekend."

Mr Green said he was confident the new coalition with the Liberal Democrats would work.

"We're going to have to take it day by day, but I think this is going to work well. I think people realise stable government is very important at this time of economic crisis," he said.

Thugs admit beating father-of-six to death

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ever been kicked by the two men, and only two had been involved in the attack, not three as had been said by witnesses in their first statements.

The court was told Goldfinch, who was a student at the time and a former kickboxer, was once cautioned for common assault.

Stevens had been warned about possession of an offensive weapon when he was a teenager by police.

Judge Andrew Patience QC accepted the manslaughter plea and remanded the pair in custody. He said a date for sentencing would be set in either June or July, after a reports had been prepared.

Mr Hopkins's wife, Toyah Brown-Davies, and children, aged between one and 10, were at the house at the time of the attack. It is thought Mr Hopkins's death was the escalation of a dispute.

On his Facebook profile, Goldfinch, who is a fan of violent gangsta rap and horror movies, says he had just started kickboxing again after a spell out with injury just before the attack.

Noisy bikers warned in police initiative

A TEAM of police motorcyclists spent the day hounding noisy bikers on Sunday after complaints from residents in the Park Farm area.

Police Constables Richard Lawton and Giles Lamb were joined by three other police riders from the South Kent team for the initiative.

PC Lawton said: "There was a very high-visibility presence with five marked police motorcycles at Bad Munsereifel Road and the Clover Leaf roundabout to the A2070.

"Those stopped were made aware of the ongoing complaints residents make about noisy bikes at weekends."

The exercise is part of a concentrated effort planned by the force throughout the summer.

PC Lamb said: "We want to see motorcyclists enjoy their motoring, but they must also understand that many of the roads they use are near residential areas like Park Farm and that residents are understandably becoming increasingly frustrated with the noise of sports bikes at the weekend."

The team stopped 37 motorcycles, and gave out two tickets for noisy exhausts and five tickets for illegal number plates.

Second term for new mayor

THE mayor-making ceremony took place at Ashford's Civic Centre last Thursday.

The new mayor is councillor Alan Wells, Labour member for the Beaver Ward. This is the second time he has served as the borough's mayor.

Cllr Wells was born in 1936 and brought up in London. He spent many years in the retailing sector of the Co-Operative movement before retiring in the late 80s and setting up a fabric and furnishing business in Ashford with his wife.

He was also a special constable with Kent Constabulary between 1971 and 1977.

His says he can trace his family connections with Ashford back to 1790, and before that to Tenterden and Romney Marsh.

Mr Wells said that his son Paul will

be accompanying him on many of his mayoral engagements.

Accepting the honour he said: "I will not be going to events around the rest of the county.

"When we are asking people to tighten their belts, I do not want to waste money. I hope to visit schools to talk to pupils about democracy and to visit some of the parishes I did not manage to get to last time."

Cllr Wells has set up his own mayor's charity fund, which he says youth groups will be able to bid for at the end of his year in office.

He takes over from Cllr John Holland. In his outgoing speech he said: "This has been a roller coaster year to be mayor. One of the highlights for me was the day the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers marched through the town."



BUDGET CONSCIOUS: Mayor Alan Wells

Why new government means better planning

THE new leader of the council Paul Bartlett has said the change of government in Westminster is a chance for the borough to review its growth plans.

He said: "The town is in a critical stage of its development. I think the time is right for us to have a review of what we call the core strategy. There is an opportunity to talk to the new coalition government about what their plans are for Ashford."

The borough became a targeted government growth area under John Prescott and the old labour administration. The targets include building 31,000 new homes and 28,000 by 2031.

Cllr Bartlett said: "I would like to think the new administration will take a more pragmatic view. We want to make sure that the plans for Ashford are right."

"If there is an opportunity to review our thinking and change our resources in a different direction then we should take that. We have to work in partnership with central government and concentrate on the quality of the development, rather than a straight numbers game."

"I am not against development but I am keen to make sure what we build is of the very highest quality. Homes must be sustainable and make effective use of brownfield sites first."

Mr Bartlett has lived in Mersham since 1976 and was first elected as a Conservative councillor in 1999. He says he hopes the new Con/Lib Dem Government will live up to their promises about delegating more power to local people.

Town's housing targets may be scrapped as local control returns

■ BY ED HILL

He said: "We want to ensure decisions made locally are not overturned by Government quangos. In the past when the local planning committee has turned plans down for legitimate reasons, the developer has been able to go off to Government and get that decision overturned."

"That is distressing for local democracy. We are the elected local councillors and we are supposed to be in control of our own destiny. It's about localism not nimbyism. It's actually about getting quality and effective buildings."

Mr Bartlett said although he expected council budgets would get tighter, he was still optimistic about the town's future.

He said: "We will be under pressure to deliver savings because our frontline services such as benefits and social housing are coming under pressure. We will have to direct our resources to the vulnerable and the needy."

"But I am very excited about the opportunities that Ashford has. The improved transport links mean quality of life in Ashford has improved. The benefits of that kind of spending will have a tremendous impact on the town."



EXCITED: Ashford Borough Council leader Paul Bartlett

Police hunt cyclist after bag snatch

A SPATE of bag snatches in the town has resulted in a police appeal for witnesses.

The latest robbery happened in Kingsnorth Road at about 12.20pm on Wednesday, May 5.

A man aged about 20, rode past the woman on a blue mountain bike and grabbed a handbag and a carrier bag from her as he went past.

Inside her bags were a passport, an identity card, a small amount of cash and a mobile phone.

Det Con Becky Lown, from South Kent Police said: "We are linking this to two other incidents in the area."

"The first incident happened on April 26 in Beaver Road when a woman's purse was snatched from her hand."

"The second incident was on May 4 in Kingsnorth Road, when a woman's handbag was snatched."

In the latest incident the offender was wearing blue jeans and a black jacket over a white hooded jumper with the hood up.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det Con Lown on 01303 289438.

Carnival procession looking for sponsors

THE FUTURE of Ashford carnival procession is in doubt, despite having new organisers at the helm.

The Ashford Go4Play project, which is funded by the Kent Children's Fund Network and Ashford council, will now oversee the running of the event.

On Sunday July 11, a street festival with stalls themed around play will take place in the town centre, and it is hoped a carnival procession will also take place as part of the celebrations.

At present, the stalls will be displayed in the town centre as part of the street festival and activities, and displays such as skateboarding, parkour, street dance, drama and music will also take place.

However, the future of the procession is not clear. The organisers say they want to hear from local companies who would be willing to organise a carnival procession through the town.

Retiring Mayor John Holland said in his standing-down speech that he was disappointed it was no longer likely there would be a Miss Ashford to represent the town.

Joel Roszmann, play manager at Kent Children's Fund Network, said: "The carnival has been a long-



DISAPPOINTED: Retiring mayor John Holland

standing tradition and a cornerstone of cultural life in Ashford for a generation.

"We want to continue this tradition, and, hopefully make it an even better family event."

"To this end we are keen to hear from any businesses interested in sponsoring the procession or working with us in any other way."

To sign up your community stall, or for more information, contact Joel Roszmann at Kent Children's Fund Network on 01233 632957.

Green candidate faces redundancy

GREEN Party election candidate Steve Campkin has revealed that he will be lose his job at the end of June.

Mr Campkin works at Cookson Electronics on the Henwood Industrial Estate. The company is now in its last round of redundancies after it announced two years ago that it would be transferring operations to Hungary and Holland.

Mr Campkin said: "I'll be made redundant on June 30 but others are staying on to help with the closing-down process. I'll be volunteering at Ashford Garden Cattery until I find another job."

About 40 staff still work at the site which manufactures components for the electronics industry.

Mr Campkin added: "The people at Cookson's shouldn't have trouble finding jobs as they are all good workers."

"My main focus is Ashford Green Party, as we're building up membership for the local elections next year."

Photo shortlist to be revealed

THE shortlist for the Ashford Best Placed in Britain Photography Competition has been chosen.

A total of 70 entries included everything from shared space to grazing sheep and apples.

The competition's judging panel has now selected the five best images from the age groups (under 12s, 12-17, and 18 and over).

The shortlists will be made public at The Art Room gallery in North Street and www.ashfordbestplaced.co.uk/photo from Thursday, May 20. The public can vote for their favourite image online or at The Art Room until noon on Thursday, June 3.

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LIVING HISTORY: Richard Holdsworth gives children a taste of life as an evacuee during World War II

Children catch train to life as an evacuee

CHILDREN visiting the Kent & East Sussex Railway in Tenterden learned all about life as an evacuee in World War II this week.

Richard Holdsworth was six when his father took his family away from the dangers of bombing in Croydon to a village near Reading to live with his aunt.

Mr Holdsworth has written a book, Six Spoons of Sugar, about his wartime experiences. He has been signing copies as part of the heritage railway's 1940s weekend and talking to visiting school groups who are studying the period in history.

Mr Holdsworth said being a 'townie' in a small village during the war was difficult at first. It even led to his father being arrested on suspicion of being a Nazi spy.

He said: "You have to realise in that village most of them had never even been to Reading, let alone London. My dad was a great Wagner fan and inadvertently let it slip in the pub that he had been to concerts in Germany before the war on holiday to go to concerts."

"The next night the village bobby knocked on our door with a plain clothes policeman

■ BY ED HILL

from Reading. They found a map of Germany on a book shelf and my father was taken away to the station."

Mr Holdsworth said that he was relatively lucky when he was evacuated because he was still with his mother and sister, but being a new boy in the village was not easy.

"I was a fish out of water. One smart alec told me that when I walked through the farmer Collin's field I should wear something red to scare away the bulls," he said.

The village was also near a base where American parachutists were stationed before the Normandy invasion. The writer will be visiting America later this year to meet men from the Screaming Eagles 101st Division, who he knew as a child.

He says the event in Tenterden which he also attended last year is a lot of fun for the children involved:

"I try to give them a sense of what it was like as an evacuee. It is terrific fun and they dress up. The kids all come with their clipboards and fire questions at me."

To find out more about Six Spoons of Sugar go to www.holdsworthwrites.co.uk.

A Sure Start for young families

A NEW children's centre has opened in Tenterden as part of the Government's Sure Start programme.

The Little Explorers building next to Tenterden Infants School will offer a range of activities and courses for parents and their children, such as baby massage, dance, parenting advice and storytelling.

Kent County Council cabinet member for Children, Families and Education Sarah Hohler said: "This is a wonderful facility. Kent County Council has worked with Tenterden Town Council, the school and many others to develop a really special centre that meets the needs of pre-school children and their families."

The project has been championed by Gillian Guthrie, the headteacher at



NEW FACILITY: Tenterden Mayor Alan Sugden cuts the ribbon to open the Little Explorers centre in Tenterden

Tenterden Infants School, who said: "I am sure that the children's centre and school will enjoy a strong and rewarding relationship long into the future."

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Designs on youth centre

SOUTH Willesborough and Newtown's new sports, youth and children's centre in Waterside is looking for help to design its new sign.

The centre is expected to be ready in the autumn, and will contain a SureStart children's centre, run by Kent County Council, and a sports youth club, run by The Salvation Army.

Ashford council wants children and young people aged up to 19 (or 25 with learning difficulties) to design the welcome sign.

Entries should be on a sheet of plain paper (no bigger than A3) and 'Waterside' should be the only word in the design. The closing date for entries is Friday, May 21.

Entry forms can be picked up from The Salvation Army in Cudworth Road, from SureStart Children's Centre, Bybrook, or from SallyAnne Logan at Ashford council by email Sallyanne.logan@ashford.gov.uk.

Council boss names team

PAUL Bartlett, the new leader of Ashford Borough Council has announced the members of his executive team.

Two new members of the Conservative group have been included in the new line-up. Cllrs Bernard Hayes and Richard Honey will join Peter Wood, who is now deputy leader, Gerry Clarkson, Neil Bell, Michael Cloughton and former leader Paul Clokie. Cllr John Kemp is standing down, but will be joining the board of Ashford's Future.

Cllr Bartlett said: "This is a strong team and I look forward to working with them."

Garden's charity open day

A SPECIAL open garden event is being held in aid of the armed forces in Challock.

Vyvyan and Alexandra Harmsworth, who own the 10-acre garden, Beech Court, are holding the event in aid of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.

Entry is £5. Children under 15 will be admitted free. No pets are admitted because of the garden's animals.

The Welsh Guards Brass Quintet will play and refreshments will be available.

The event on Sunday June 20 runs from 11am to 5pm. Details from www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk

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Bee-keeping project gets young volunteers buzzing

■ BY ED HILL

THE next generation of beekeepers is helping to reverse the decline in bee numbers at the Wyvern School in Ashford.

A new programme, called Buzzing Around Kent, is organised by Environment Plus International, a Kent-based non-profit organisation that educates young people about environmental issues.

It aims to get further education students at the school, who help children with learning difficulties, involved in a project that boosts their confidence as well as playing a vital role increasing honey bee and bumble bee numbers.

At present the average age of beekeepers in Kent is 62 and it is hoped the project will get younger people involved by getting the students to talk about issues affecting bees which are vital to pollinating fruit and vegetables.

Environment Plus has secured £30,000 from the Government, along with Ruskin Private Hire, to help fund the project. The transport company specialises in providing transport for people with disabilities.

The firm, set up by former international athlete Roger Lynch, is providing a specialist learning coach to take the children to the bee-keeping sites in the county.

At the school the students have been learning



about bee-keeping as well as building hives and bumble bee boxes to encourage the insects to nest in its wild flower garden.

The number of honeybees has fallen by between 10 and 15 per cent in the past few years, according to recent government figures. The insects are under threat from a number of sources including the varroa mite, modern farming practices and wet summers.

Patrick Tierney, of Environment Plus International, said: "We are delighted to have received our grant. It was also dependent on support of a private sector organisation. The use of the technology bus provided by Ruskin Private Hire is invaluable."

David Moniz, the disability and family liaison

officer for the project, said: "The students are really enjoying what they have done.

"They have been building the hives. It was amazing to see one partially-sighted student making some of the frames. He was quicker than anyone else."

Mr Tierney added: "The numbers of these young people practising beekeeping is very small. We hope to turn around the fortunes of the honeybee and bumblebee populations through their volunteering."

"The project has a small team of specialist beekeepers, habitat specialists and support staff to help meet the needs of the young volunteers, and they also have excellent support from the dedicated staff at Wyvern."

DRESSED TO IMPRESS: The students wear protective clothing on a visit to a bee-keeping centre. The bus was provided by one of the project's backers, Ruskin Private Hire

Save cash and energy at home

A NEW environmental project to help save energy and water is being introduced in Kennington and Bybrook.

Under the scheme, residents can now claim advice and equipment worth £300.

Ashford's Future has teamed up with Kent County Council, the Environment Agency and Ashford council to deliver the Savings at Home project.

Householders can sign up to receive a free home visit from an energy and water efficiency expert, and gain invaluable advice on new ways to improve the sustainability of their homes.

Laurienne Tibbles, Ashford's Future Sustainability Manager, said: "One of our prime motivations is to make the Ashford growth area a truly sustainable place to live and work."

"Ashford is in a water-stressed area, and the likely future increases in gas and electricity prices might also add to pressure on household budgets."

"The Savings at Home scheme will help existing residents do everything they can to save energy, water, and money, and we would encourage as many people as possible to participate."

The home visitors from Creative Environmental Networks will provide in-home assistance by installing a selection of free gadgets, including energy monitors, chimney balloons, tap aerators and reflective radiator panels.

Residents in Kennington and Bybrook interested in taking up this offer should call freephone 0800 358 6663 to book a free home visit. Any other Ashford residents are also welcome to call CEN, who will place them on a waiting list for future phases.



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QUESTION & ANSWER

ANDREW NEAL



Q & A

Setting up a business is never easy at the best of times, but particularly challenging during a recession. Andrew Neal, of Ashford's newest estate agents Andrew & Co, explains to Ed Hill why he took the plunge

Q Ashford has plenty of estate agents. What made you decide to open another?

A I've spent years in the industry and felt I had something new to offer. Ashford is a growing, go-ahead town with lots of new housing planned, but by opening during a comparatively quiet time I can get established and get my name known before the market takes off again. Once the upturn comes it will be too late. It also fulfils a personal ambition to set up my own company by the time I was 30.

Q Why did you choose Ashford?

A I've lived and worked in the town for years and know the area very well. It's an exciting place, with pleasant countryside nearby and everything you need on the doorstep. It's also continuing to grow, so will soon have even more to offer. There are lots of new developments popping up which can only help the housing market move forwards, but there are also development such as the shopping centre extension and shared space that keep the town looking good.

Q Where were you working before?

A I've worked for other agents but immediately before opening Andrew & Co worked for a property website, which gave me first-hand experience of the importance of using online marketing alongside traditional meth-

ods. A lot of agents don't appreciate the importance of the internet, but I believe it's crucial in making sure our properties are noticed.

Figures show 89 per cent of people start their property search online. We also understand the importance of local advertising, particularly in newspapers, so we will be using a mix of methods to get our homes noticed.

Q What makes a good estate agent?

A Hard work and honesty go a long way. The reason some agents had such a bad name in the past is that they have been known to say one thing and do another.

An agent should be in regular contact with buyers about any new properties coming onto the market while also keeping vendors up to date with viewing feedback and any interest shown. Agents also need to be in regular contact with solicitors, from point of offer through to completion. Keeping people informed goes a long way.

Q What makes your business special?

A We pride ourselves on being very honest. We're also flexible. We don't have set fees – we are running an introductory offer of one per cent plus VAT – and don't tie people into long contracts. We tailor the deal to suit the customer. We are also happy to meet clients at times that suit them, not us.

Q

A My family is my priority and being a new dad has changed what my spare time will allow – for the better. When I do get the time, though, I also enjoy playing football and golf.

Q

A It's been tough, but we're confident that Ashford's future is exciting enough to give us a great future, too.

Q

A Our main problem has been getting ourselves known. With so much competition, we need to give people a reason to choose Andrew & Co, which is what prompted us to focus on flexible service. It's not been easy, but we are now getting recognised more.

Q

A Ashford will be one of the earliest to emerge and one of the strongest areas of growth over the next decade, especially with high-speed rail and easy access to the Continent. Homes are being built and there is considerable investment – that can only be a good thing. We've seen buyers from outside looking to move here, especially from London.

Q

A My family is my priority and being a new dad has changed what my spare time will allow – for the better. When I do get the time, though, I also enjoy playing football and golf.

Q What has the response been like?

A It's been tough, but we're confident that Ashford's future is exciting enough to give us a great future, too.

Q What problems have you faced?

A Our main problem has been getting ourselves known. With so much competition, we need to give people a reason to choose Andrew & Co, which is what prompted us to focus on flexible service. It's not been easy, but we are now getting recognised more.

Q How well do you think Ashford will recover from recession?

A Ashford will be one of the earliest to emerge and one of the strongest areas of growth over the next decade, especially with high-speed rail and easy access to the Continent. Homes are being built and there is considerable investment – that can only be a good thing. We've seen buyers from outside looking to move here, especially from London.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A My family is my priority and being a new dad has changed what my spare time will allow – for the better. When I do get the time, though, I also enjoy playing football and golf.

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New route will have designer end

A NEW cycleway and footpath to the south of the Designer Outlet has been given the go-ahead by the council's planning committee.

The route will link the centre with housing in the Park Farm area of town. To create the route a new steel bridge will have to be built over the Aylesford Stream and an old Victorian brick arched bridge will be restored.

At present the land is used as grazing for farm animals but the council says the new route will create a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians who want to cross the A2070 dual carriageway.

Planners have asked that a five year wildlife management scheme be put in place as part of the works.

Council is Trailblazer for housing advice

ASHFORD council is hosting the first housing Trailblazer conference in the South East.

The event is being held in conjunction with Communities and Local Government Department (CLG) and aims to share information about new approaches to delivering housing options and advice services to residents.

Ashford was selected by the (CLG) to receive funding to offer a greater range of advice to people looking for housing help.

The conference is being held at Ashford International Hotel on May 21, Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/housing for more information or email housingplus-conference@ashford.gov.uk.

Better, faster care with flash new scanner

PATIENTS at the William Harvey Hospital can look forward to quicker treatment thanks to the latest in Computerised Tomography (CT) scanning technology.

The new Scanning Suite now has two new Siemens Definition Flash scanners.

The £2.5 million investment in the machines means patients and staff will be exposed to far lower levels of radiation. Turnaround times will also be faster.

The new technology means doctors can use the CT scanners for things they never could before, such as seeing how far a stroke has progressed.

Patients suffering trauma injuries such as bleeding on the brain will be diagnosed quicker and advanced computer technology means problems that may once have passed unnoticed can be picked up, potentially saving hundreds of lives.

Ruth Moore CT Clinical Manager said: "The entire thorax can be scanned in less than a second.

■ BY ED HILL

"The incredible reduction in radiation dose makes these new scanners much healthier for patients by protecting the most radiation-sensitive organs of the body, such as the female breast.

"We will be able to improve our cardiac and stroke treatment. The new imaging technology means we can see a three dimensional image just of the blood vessels with all the bone in the body removed from the picture.

"It is also very important that our more vulnerable patients will spend a lot less time in the scanner, meaning they won't have to hold their breath, reducing levels of stress."

CT scanners work by firing X-rays from many different angles around the body. A picture is then created with the information by a computer. Another scanner has also been installed at the Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother Hospital in Margate. So far only two of these latest machines have been installed in major hospitals in the country.

Stuart Baines, chief executive of the East



SUITE: Computerised Tomography scanning technology has been installed in the William Harvey Hospital

Kent Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "As a Trust we have to strive to make continual improvements to our service. It is also important to praise all the backroom staff who manage to allow these projects to come to fruition."

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Stimson goes as Scally cuts Gills jobs after latest defeat

A WHIRLWIND week at Gillingham FC has led to an uncertain future for players and supporters of Kent's only Football club.

Chairman Paul Scally moved quickly following the Gills' second relegation in three seasons last weekend, first announcing the departure of manager Mark Stimson and then the surprising release of all 14 out-of-contract players.

The Dubai-based businessman told the BBC he was angered by the manner of the team's 3-0 defeat at Wycombe, which sealed the club's fate in front of more than 2,700 away fans.

He said: "The performance was alarming for me and I troubled about it all over the weekend. I don't remember feeling as low as I feel at the moment, because I feel I've failed.

"I appointed the manager and I stuck by

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

him. I gave him the funds he needed at every instance, I worked him a decent budget and I think we've got a very good squad of players."

Former Grays and Stevenage boss Stimson was appointed Gills manager in November 2007, but was unable to halt the club's slide into League Two.

His new-look team bounced straight back with promotion via the play-offs in May 2009, but failed to win a single away game in a disappointing return to the third flight.

Resignation

Supporters verbally abused Stimson and called for him to resign following the disastrous defeat at Wycombe, but the 42-year-old refused to budge until Mr Scally forced his hand two days later.



SHAKE-UP: Gillingham FC chairman Paul Scally, left, and the favourite to take over as manager, Andy Hessenthaler

"I'm contracted but that will be up to the chairman," Stimson told KOS Media after the game.

"He'll make that decision and I'm sure he'll be honest with me. You can see that the supporters weren't too happy at the end and there were shouts of my name.

"That's a discussion myself and the chairman will have, and I'm sure he will make the right decision that he thinks will take the club forward."

The day after Stimson left the club by "mutual consent", it was announced that all 14 out-of-contract players had been released and were free to seek employment elsewhere.

These included captain Barry Fuller and popular veterans Simon Royce and Mark Bentley.

However, it was noted that the next manager would reassess the situation when he is appointed.

Early favourite for the job is former player-manager Andy Hessenthaler, who recently missed out on three successive promotions with his new club Dover Athletic.

Hessenthaler told KOS Media early this week that he had received no contact from Mr Scally, but that he would like to return to full-time management.

"I've never hidden my desire to return to Football League management," he said. "But I am on contract at Dover and have a job to do to win the Conference South next season."

Another candidate had been thought to be first team coach Mark Robson, but he was released from his role at the club on Tuesday.

Paedophile gets foreign travel ban

A NOTORIOUS sex offender has been banned from visiting an entire continent.

The foreign travel order prevents paedophile Frederick Stephens from going to Asia where it is believed he intended to 'buy a wife'.

He had been part of the Wonderland Club that was smashed in 1998.

Stephens was among 107 men arrested for 'trading' photos of children over the internet.

Stephens was jailed in 2001 for child sex offences.

This new order prevents the 55-year-old from going anywhere in the Far East for three years, thanks to the efforts of worried detectives.

The Margate father-of-two is also forbidden from entering Turkey.

It follows a civil action at Canterbury Magistrates Court. The case will not be reviewed again until at least May 2013.

Officers lodged the application after Stephens went to the Philippines last year without informing police, breaking a stipulation of his sentence for the distribution of indecent images of children in 2001.



BAN: Stephens

A judge jailed him for 14 months last October for the breach.

He was brought to Canterbury from Wandsworth prison for the hearing last Tuesday.

A police source said: "He had to inform the police of his plans, and he didn't. That means he is back behind bars."

Former MPs support David Miliband in leadership bid

DAVID Miliband has won the backing of former Kent MPs in his quest to succeed Gordon Brown as leader of the Labour Party.

The ex-Foreign Secretary was the first to throw his hat in the ring following Mr Brown's resignation last Tuesday, and the decision has been welcomed by fellow party members in the Garden of England.

Should the 44-year-old win the leadership contest he will have until 2015 to rebuild the Labour Party and mount a serious election challenge – unless the new Con-Lib coalition fails before then.

Other possible contenders include Mr Miliband's younger brother and former Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, ex-Education Secretary Ed Balls and outgoing Chancellor Alistair Darling.

Gwyn Prosser, who lost his Dover seat to the Conservatives, gave his backing to the elder sibling while simultaneously slating Mr Balls.

He said: "David has shown himself to be a highly effective performer. He has good leadership skills and has done a great job as Foreign Secretary, but most of all he is able to articulate some of the most complex issues. That's essential these days.

"On the other hand Ed Balls has some unfortunate characteristics. I was not at all happy

with the way he stigmatised some of the very talented schools in Kent (as part of the National Challenge programme) and in my own constituency."

Before his election to Parliament in 2001, David Miliband had served as Tony Blair's Head of Policy and was credited for playing a major part in the Labour Party's landslide victory of 1997.

He served in various ministerial posts for the first several years of his tenure until being appointed Environment Secretary in 2006, and then Foreign Secretary a year later.

"I think David is dynamic and is an intellectual heavyweight who would have a broad appeal," said former Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw.

"He would be more than a match for the new Prime Minister and his deputy."

Despite refusing to reveal his pick for the leadership, former Gillingham and Rainham MP Paul Clark said both the Milibands could do a good job.

He added: "There's a wide range of talent out there and they both have their strengths.

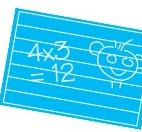
"Both are equally very capable and possess a great number of positive assets."

"All the potential leaders would no doubt bring different things to the party, but the critical thing is that we have a leader who is energetic and who has a vision of how we should go forward."



CONTENDER: David Miliband has put himself forward

yourashfordschools



BREAK TIME



HIGH NOTE: Ashford School Chamber Choir
Chamber choir sings from the rooftop

THE Chamber Choir at Ashford School recently spent an afternoon on the school rooftop to celebrate the May day holiday.

This is the second year the concert has taken place. It is inspired by the May Day celebrations in Oxford when madrigals, part songs and folksongs are sung. The tradition dates back 500 years.

In the ancient calendar the first day in May marks the end of the cold winter half of the year in the Northern hemisphere.

With a repertoire including one of the most famous of the English madrigals; 'Now is the Month of Maying' by Thomas Morley and 'Fair Phyllis' by John Farmer, the students braved the chilly winds and, with a brief moment of sunshine graced the rooftops to entertain the crowd below. The school now hopes it will be a traditional event for years to come.

Under-15s qualify for football final

TOWERS School under-15 football team has qualified for a County final for the second year in a row. They beat Hayesbrook School 4-2 in the semi final match held in Tunbridge Wells FC's stadium.

Towers scored early and kept their opponents under pressure for the rest of the match.

Question time at Towers as pupils grilled candidates

■ BY ED HILL

THIS year's general election has produced one of the most controversial results in recent history.

However, hopefully future voters at the Towers School in Kennington will be able to produce a clearer result when it's their time to vote at the next election.

Sixth form students were given a precious opportunity to grill the election candidates just one day before the polls opened on May 6.

Three of the prospective MPs for the constituency took on 50 students, who posed tough and searching questions, and expected the answers to stand up to heavy scrutiny.

Conservative candidate and incumbent Ashford MP Damian Green, Liberal Democrat candidate Chris Took and Steve Campkin for the Green Party spent well over an hour of their final day's campaigning time to speak to the students.

The questions covered topics such as the impact of the televised debates, the protection of the education budget, lowering the voting age to 16, and how best to address Ashford's problems, amongst others.

All of the candidates expressed their gratitude at being able to get the opportunity to speak directly to young voters about the issues that concerned them. The students were similarly grateful to be able to ask direct questions, and have their voices heard.

Steve Campkin speaking at the election count on Thursday night said he felt the debate had been a useful exercise in getting across his Green Party agenda to the students.

Development

He said: "We did not want to oppose all change in Ashford. That would be the politics that people would expect from the Greens. But when the students asked about development in the town I was able to point outside the window to the fields at the back of the school and say they want to build houses there. That really got their attention."

Damian Green, who increased his majority this time round, said: "Being grilled by the students at Towers School was a wonderful experience and every bit as intense as the House of Commons. It has been great to see so many young voters and soon to be voters engaging with politics in Ashford and I look forward to speaking at the school in the future."



DEBATE: Damian Green and Chris Took (left) answered students' questions

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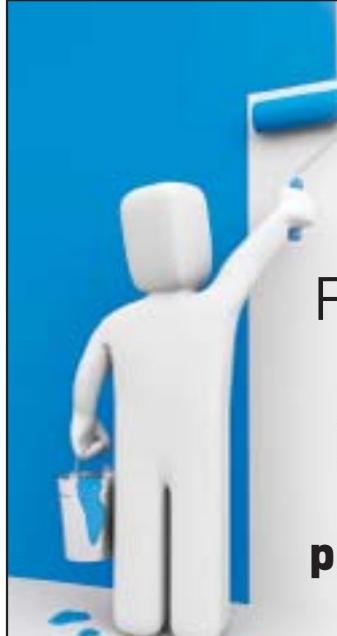
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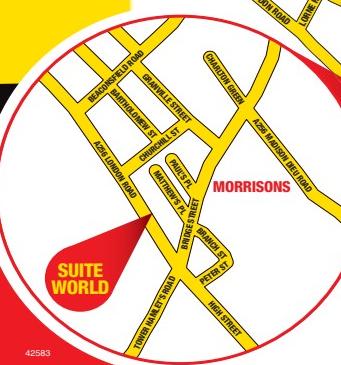
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MP pledges support for sufferers of ME

May is ME Awareness Month and your readers may wish to know that Damian Green MP has shown an interest in representing constituents suffering from ME (Myalgic Encephalomyelitis) at national level by supporting the All-Party Parliamentary Group for ME at Westminster.

Now that the votes have been cast and the new Government starts looking at cut-backs, we hope that Mr Green will remember the needs of vulnerable people with ME and other chronic health problems.

Sir Peter Spencer, Chief Executive Action for ME, by email

Keep sex offenders locked up for life

So Kent Police have lost track of fourteen sex offenders, seven of whom are deemed high risk?

It is scandalous that our country's constabulary and the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) are seemingly incapable of monitoring extremely dangerous criminals. Such operational failure is wholly unacceptable.

However, what is even more disgraceful is that serious sex offenders are being released from jail on licence at all.

Every paedophile and rapist should be sentenced to life imprisonment with no chance of parole.

This way there would be zero opportunity for them to reoffend and the public would be kept safe from these vile predators.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

Coalition a recipe for more unemployment

Kent Green Party has examined the statements explaining what the new Coalition Government will do. Our immediate conclusion is that unemployment will rise significantly.

The new coalition is committed to immediate cuts in public spending of £6 billion, with worse to follow. This will, without question, lead to a rise in unemployment nationally and here in Kent and Medway.

This coalition is planning a second recession. Sectors such as local government, the civil service and the university sector are already shedding lots of jobs, despite obvious staff shortages.

This could be avoided: we could tax the wealthiest fifth of households more, and increase taxes on large corporations, whilst closing tax loopholes and bringing in a tax on currency transactions.

We can also cut the bloated defence budget by bringing our forces home from Afghanistan in line with public opinion.

The coalition also begins life without a promise of a fair electoral

yourblogger

Gareth Arnold would like to keep a low profile, but unfortunately Facebook seems to have other ideas



FACEBOOK, with its friendly, blue lowercase f and cretinous, boggle-eyed farm animals is hiding a dark secret.

Or rather, it's not. In fact, it's not hiding much at all and therein lies the problem.

Just in case you don't already know, the uproar over the big f's privacy settings has finally, and publicly, exploded. This culminated in an emergency meeting at the American social network's headquarters last week to discuss why everyone has stopped playing Mafia Wars and turned the guns on them.

You see if you've never explored the brain-bleedingly complex privacy controls (50 different settings and 170 options), then the vast majority of your Facebook interaction is available to the entire interweb. Not just your friends, not just your network, not even just Facebook users. The. Whole. Internet.

That drunken wall post in which you compared your boss with North Korean dictator Kim Jong-il. That picture of you vomiting on a friend's car wearing a blonde wig and a tutu. There for all to see, unless of course you've bothered to tell Facebook otherwise.

It didn't always used to be this way. When Facebook launched in 2005, only a fraction of this information could be seen by default, and none of it by the entire internet. But things change, especially when information is worth money to third parties interested in accurately targeted marketing campaigns.

There will be some who are unbothered by this. I'm

sure there are people who've never had a compromising photo taken and are happy everything they post can be seen. But you're missing the point.

Currently, Facebook's privacy settings are opt-in. If you don't change them yourself, no one is going to do it for you. Surely private should be the default setting?

Meanwhile some smug commentators are scaling new levels of supercilious self-satisfaction by claiming "it's your fault if you share that sort of information and don't check privacy settings. Noob! Lol!"

This sort of thing isn't helpful, and fails to note the huge variety of people currently using Facebook.

Its bright, easy to navigate system is not targeted at tech heads. It is purposely enticing everyday users who just want to stay in touch, and the interface implies a default level of privacy which does not exist.

Of course, the easiest way to avoid all this is not to join the first place, or failing that, delete your account.

This is where things get a bit freaky. Without Googling the increasingly popular "how do I delete my Facebook account?" just try to commit social network seppuku.

Deactivation is straightforward, but does nothing to protect your privacy, or terminate your account. All your info is still there. To escape Facebook's clutches entirely the system is long (two weeks!), frustrating, and purposely complex. Facebook is desperate to be your special friend forever... Get out while you can. To delete your account go to www.wikihow.com/Permanently-Delete-a-Facebook-Account.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the editor, **Gareth Arnold**, on 01303 817025 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Ashford blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourashford.co.uk.

system. Once again, despite clear public support, the new Government is to maintain one of the very few undemocratic electoral systems in the world.

We can only imagine how many Liberal Democrat members and supporters feel: they voted Lib Dem and got a Conservative Government with mainly Conservative policies.

Green Party leader Caroline Lucas MP has already issued a national media release encouraging disillusioned Lib Dems to join the Green Party.

Kent Green Party invites Lib Dems in Kent and Medway to examine Green Party policies and join us.

Dr Hazel Dawe, Chair of Kent Green Party, by email

BNP's 'vile politics' rumbled at polls

So the BNP's Harry Williams (party candidate for Shepway) has a whinge after his party was comprehensively trounced at the General Election, barring a few extra protest votes.

In their target seats they and their "vile politics", as Labour's Margaret Hodge put it, were rumbled and so lost many of their local councillors; all in Barking; and got nowhere in the Parliamentary seats.

As Winston Churchill might have put it: "Never were so few so easily

rebuked".

He'd also have seen right through leader Nick Griffin and volubly denounced him, especially for hijacking his image on their electioneering.

As for the BNP's 'indigenous' line, it was the 'English' who swamped the Celtic peoples etc about 1,500 or so years ago.

So in 1,010 AD it would have been Angles and Saxons in this country Brits - who came from Brittany - Jutes, Vikings, Romans etc, out perhaps?

Also, after the last ice age, the locals were just hunter gatherers and, as has been found from recent genetic research, it was migrants from the Middle East who brought their farming techniques and then inter-married to foster 'modern civilisation'. Who then is 'indigenous'?

As for 'foreign companies' buying some of ours, it's swings and roundabouts.

We set up and/or owned many of them originally during the sad old, and largely disreputable in my view, Empire days from which Mr Williams etc seem to be suffering a hangover.

Economies, as with companies, rise and decline and always have. However, I suggest we need to move on to seek better and more internationalist ways of doing things, and so find prosperity without growth as more and more economists are arguing for.

So I leave the BNP to self implode via its internal squabbles

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will involve some stiles. Everyone and anyone is welcome on Get Walking Day, no matter what their age, stage or walking ability.

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Make walking part of your life as the more you do, the better you'll feel.

If you can't join in with a Get Walking Day walk, but you need some help getting started, then visit our website www.getwalking.org.uk

Julia Bradbury, the Ramblers President

Dispelling myths that surround nursing

May 12 – Florence Nightingale's birthday – is International Nurses' Day and this year also marked the 100th anniversary of her death.

Nurses from Medway Maritime Hospital looked at some of the common misconceptions about nursing and how things have changed since the Lady with the Lamp walked the wards.

"A nurse is an assistant to the doctor"; "I'd equate nursing with something like hairdressing – there are some skills involved but not too technical"; "Not for those who could do a degree"; "I'm not sure you need to be a leader to be a good nurse – surely doctors have the final say anyway".

Those are just some of the comments highlighted in a recent report about nursing, which show that the public generally believe nurses to be put-upon victims of their vocation, unambitious and usually female.

The public image of nursing appears to have changed little since the days of Florence Nightingale.

This couldn't be further from the truth. Nurses are highly-skilled, educated to degree level and enjoy autonomy in their roles.

They work closely alongside doctors, not below them, and they are highly respected. And the number of male nurses entering the profession is increasing all the time.

Nursing is being done a disservice and it's only right to dispel some of these myths and let people know what a career in nursing is like.

Jacquie McKenna, Director of Nursing at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, by email



NOW HEAR THIS: Pulp's frontman Jarvis Cocker

Cocker's sound idea for Trust

MUSICIAN Jarvis Cocker has worked with the National Trust to create an album taking listeners on a journey around its properties across Britain.

The former Pulp frontman has produced the 33-minute soundtrack titled National Trust: The Album, using the sounds of birdsong, crashing waves and the wind rushing through country gardens.

One of the tracks features sounds from Chartwell, the former home of Sir Winston Churchill at Westerham, near Sevenoaks. The album, which is available to download free from the National Trust website, has taken three months to produce.

A spokesman said: "It is designed to showcase the peace and tranquility people enjoy when they visit the special places cared for by the National Trust."

Jarvis Cocker's recording can be downloaded until the end of June at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/soundsalbum.

Online judgement puts sentencing ball in your court

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

THINK there are too many hardened criminals on our streets because of "soft" sentencing by out-of-touch courts and judges?

If so, check out a new interactive website which has been launched in Kent to counter that perception by allowing the public to pass their own sentences on virtual villains.

They can then compare the outcome of real life cases, with names changed, with their own sentencing suggestions.

One case is already online, and it appears most people agreed with the bench of magistrates shown in the interactive film of a man found guilty of criminal damage and given a community sentence. But a few wanted him locked up for three months. More cases will be uploaded in the coming months.

The Kent Criminal Justice Board (KCJB) said it is concerned many people still don't know what happens inside a real court room, nor appreciate how complex an apparently simple hearing can turn out to be.



WEBSITE: You judge the defendant in the interactive court which gives an eye-opening view of the justice system

It has created a chance for the public to judge and pass sentence on a real-life criminal court cases. The interactive guide to sentencing takes the viewer along the passage of justice step by step, explaining some of the usually hidden details.

It shows how the decision-making process works and gives visitors to the site the chance to be the judge and pass sentence themselves.

Acting Chief Constable of Kent Adrian Leppard, who chairs the Kent Criminal Justice Board, said: "Improving people's knowledge of how the criminal justice system in general and the courts in particular work is a key factor in improving public confidence."



Deputy chairman of the Magistrates' Association, John Fassenfelt, who sits on the Central Kent Bench, said: "The website is designed to open the system up to communities and help them see, first-hand, that the punishment fits the crime and the important part that magistrates courts play in serving their communities."

The KCJB is comprised of Kent Police, Crown Prosecution Service, Kent Probation, the Prison Service, Courts Service, Youth Offending Services and the Legal Services Commission.

Go to www.cjsonline.gov.uk/kent and click on 'You Be The Judge'.

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**DAY & NIGHT****Auditions for musical**

AMATEUR actors aged from 15 to 75 are invited to audition for a new musical, *Friday Night Forever*.

The show will be performed at the Tower Theatre, Folkestone in September in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Auditions are at 10am and 2pm on Saturday. Call Simon on 07772 100798 or email nebularsounds@hotmail.co.uk.

Show tribute to actor

A CLASSIC Alan Bennett play will be staged in memory of actor and director, Peter Goldsmith.

Habeas Corpus is performed by Charing Guild of Players and Lenham Players at the Church Barn, Charing at 7.20pm on Friday and Saturday in aid of Cancer Research UK. Tickets are £7 from Wood You Like in School Road and by calling 01233 713725.

Dyslexia explained

FIND out more about dyslexia when Peter Smith of Wildwood gives a talk on Tuesday.

Wild about Dyslexia: The Struggle to Free an Untamed Mind starts at 8.30pm at The Spires Academy in Westbere, Sturry. A £2 donation would be appreciated. For details call Dyslexia East Kent Support on 0845 003 8979.

Pianist plays classics

LOCAL pianist David Ruddock will give a recital of classical works for the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club on Sunday.

The concert, with music by Chopin, Schumann, Debussy, Liszt, Gillock and Beethoven, is at the Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs at 3pm and tickets are £9 or £32 for families of four. Call 0845 262 6263 or email info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk.

Army to invade club

ORANGE Street Music Club in Canterbury welcomes two members of New Model Army this week.

Founder and songwriter Justin Sullivan is joined by the band's guitarist-keyboardist for a semi-acoustic performance of New Model Army material at 8pm on Thursday. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the door. To book call 01227 760801.

By royal appointment

RUSSIAN vocal ensemble Lyra will perform at Christchurch Church in Ashford.

The ensemble from St Petersburg has toured widely and was invited to perform in London by Prince Charles.

The concert starts at 7.30pm on Thursday and tickets cost £5/£4 for adults, free for under 14s. Call 01233 620600 or email franthyony@sky.com.

Stand up for a laugh

ASPIRING comedians can step into the spotlight at Tom Thumb Theatre's open mic comedy night.

The small venue in Margate is holding the event on Saturday and tickets are £5 from The Joke Shop in Arlington Square, Margate. For details call 07904 554101 or email stevebradshawpresents@yahoo.com.

Little ships head back to beaches

OPERATION DYNAMO 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Tuesday, May 25, to Thursday, May 27
Ramsgate Royal Harbour

SEVENTY years ago, Ramsgate played an important part in one of the most extraordinary operations of World War II.

Over a period of nine days in May 1940, 338,000 British and Allied troops were rescued from the beaches and port of Dunkirk in France. The Admiralty commandeered 800 civilian boats as part of Operation Dynamo and these boats became known as the Little Ships. Next week, the remaining 50 Little Ships will return to Dunkirk to commemorate the dramatic evacuation.

To mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Dynamo and the contribution made by the community, Ramsgate will be the focus for a series of events. The commemorations start on the evening of Tuesday, May 25 with a talk by David Welch, professor of modern history at the University of Kent. He will be giving a talk called The Story of Operation Dynamo – The Evacuation from Dunkirk – at the Oak Hotel.

On Wednesday, May 26, there will be a range of events taking place as part of Dynamo Day, organised by Ramsgate Heritage Partnership. A service for the Little Ships will be held at Sailors Church with veterans' standards at noon, followed by the parade.

At 1pm a lunch will take place at the Oak Hotel with a special guest of honour – Celia Sandys, granddaughter of Sir Winston Churchill and author of *Chasing Churchill*. There will also be a tribute to Dame Vera Lynn, performed by Kas.

The Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Allan Willett, will inspect the Little Ships at the Royal Harbour at 2.30pm and Reverend Tom Heffer, secretary general of The Mission to Seafarers, will bless the boats. The Mayor's reception will be held at Custom House at 5pm, followed by a skipper's briefing at 6.30pm.

Step back in time for a 1940s-themed night of fun at the Belgian Bar and Cafe, with Tony LeSurf and Four's A Crowd from 7pm. The day will finish with a bang as the spectacular firework display gets underway at 10pm.

Early the next morning, the 50 original Little Ships will set off for Dunkirk, escorted by HMS Monmouth, the RNLI and the Maritime Volunteer Service. As they make their way across the busiest shipping lane in the world, thoughts of the dramatic and courageous evacuation will be at the forefront of everyone's minds.

A number of events will be taking place at Dunkirk over the weekend, including a memorial service on the beach on Saturday, May 29, and the Little Ships will return on bank holiday Monday (May 31).

The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships has been returning to Dunkirk every five years

Ramsgate commemorates its role in Operation Dynamo, 70 years after the dramatic rescue that saved more than 300,000 lives in Dunkirk

Picture THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL



since 1965, when broadcaster Raymond Baxter – who had recently bought a Little Ship – decided to start the event on the suggestion of his young son. The only exception was 1970, when bad weather caused the event to be cancelled.

Operation Dynamo was set in motion on May 26, 1940, when the War Office sent a secret cipher telegram to the Admiralty stating that an emergency evacuation of troops from the French coast was required immediately. Although British and Allied Forces were fighting hard to stop the German advance through Europe, Hitler's troops had forced

them to retreat and cornered the Allied Forces in a small area around Dunkirk.

Hundreds of privately-owned pleasure craft were pressed into service, being taken to Sheerness to be fuelled, then marshalled at Ramsgate where Naval officers, ratings and experienced volunteers were put on board.

From Ramsgate, they set out to undertake the daring rescue and more than 300,000 lives were saved as a result. Today, the phrase 'Dunkirk spirit' is still used to express courage and determination in the face of adversity.

To find out more about Dunkirk Little Ships visit www.adls.org.uk.



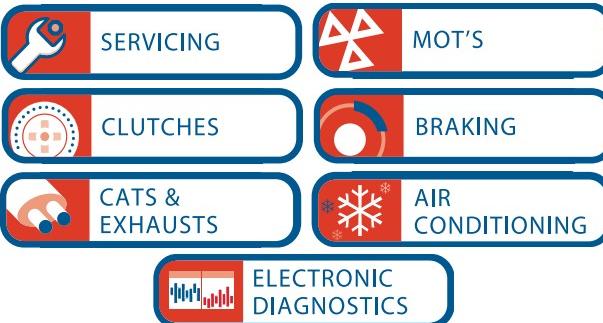
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POSTMAN PAT – A VERY ROYAL MISSION

Sunday, May 23, Winter Gardens, Margate

A CHILDREN'S favourite arrives in Thanet with a very special delivery this weekend.

Postman Pat has been delighting young audiences around the world for nearly 30 years and this week he will be bringing his little red van to Margate. Along with his trusty sidekick, Jess the cat, and his fellow residents of Pencaster, Pat will star in a fun show that will enchant all the family.

Everyone in Pencaster has received a special letter from the Palace, announcing an imminent royal visit to the village. The VIP is coming to open the

brand new SDS sorting office, so the village and its residents must look fantastic.

But when a storm rages through the visit, it looks like the much-anticipated royal visit might be in jeopardy. As Head of the SDS, Postman Pat springs into action and attempts to save the day with the help of Jess and his new SDS helicopter.

The show starts at 2pm and tickets cost £11.50 for adults, £9.50 for children and £38 for families of four. Call the box office on 01843 292795/296111 or visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk.



SUMMER SERENADE

Wednesday, May 26, Granville Theatre, Ramsgate

REVISIT shows from the past as the Granville Theatre hosts Summer Serenade.

The evening will be a celebration of music and song from much-loved musical theatre, performed by the Thanet Light Orchestra.

Vocals will be provided by singers Derry and Alice Martin during this concert of popular light classics. They have both recently landed leading roles with Ramsgate, Canterbury and Herne Bay Operatic Societies.

Founded in 1946, the orchestra is made up of professional and amateur musicians and they play a wide variety of classical and light music.



Originally known as the Broadstairs Philharmonic Orchestra, it changed its name to the Thanet Philharmonic Orchestra before becoming the Thanet Light Orchestra in 1981.

George Martin has been the conductor since 1969 and more than 40 years on, the orchestra is still thriving under his leadership.

The proceeds of the concert will be donated to the Granville Theatre, towards the cost of running and restoring the building.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £8/£7. To book call the box office on 01843 591750. For more information visit www.granvilletheatre.com.

LUCY PORTER IN FOOL'S GOLD

Saturday, May 22, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



ENJOY an evening of 24-carat comedy as Lucy Porter reveals her thoughts on the glory of gold.

In her latest stand-up show, Fool's Gold, the charming comedian explores man's obsession with the precious metal and how the current financial climate has elevated its worth. Since the recession, gold has become more highly prized than ever, but why are we so captivated by the shiny, metallic substance?

The show promises to feature live alchemy, a tribute to Mr T and a very valuable 'gold thing'.

With her usual witty and enchanting approach, Porter gets big laughs out of unlikely topics. Combining a sharp sense of humour with the chummy persona of a gossipy friend, Porter is a perennially popular comic and her show won great reviews at last year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

She has made appearances on Never Mind the Buzzcocks, Have I Got News For You and Mock the Week and won Celebrity Mastermind last year.

The show, suitable for over-16s, starts at 7.45pm and tickets cost £15/£13. To book call 01227 769075 or visit www.thegulbenkian.co.uk.



BOB KENWARD AT FAVERSHAM FOLK CLUB



Wednesday, May 26, The Chimney Boy, Faversham

KENT music hero Bob Kenward has been entertaining folk fans for 30 years with his popular songs.

Next week, Faversham Folk Club welcomes the local musician to perform the songs that have earned him such a strong reputation over the decades. Renowned for his ability to chronicle life in Kent, both old and new, Kenward is one of the county's finest singer-songwriters.

His songs include Man of Kent, Sweet Pippin, King Hop, Doctor Syn and Romney Tower, which have become a staple part of the local repertoire and proved inspirational for other singers. Attracted by the strong choruses and appealing lyrics, many other artists have performed and recorded Kenward's songs.

Capturing the unusual elements of life, Kenward creates something memorable with his songs. He is also a talented musician, accompanying his singing on guitar, mandolin and harmonica. His set ranges from love songs to social commentary.

The concert starts at 8.30pm and tickets cost £5 for members of £6 for non-members. For more information call 01795 536857.

JIM DAVIDSON:

IF I RULED THE WORLD



Friday, May 28, Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone

CONTROVERSIAL comedian Jim Davidson outlines what life would be like under King James in his latest show.

If I Ruled the World is his most outrageous show yet, featuring stories of loose women, the UK's involvement in recent wars and tales from the troops. In this highly entertaining adult show, he reveals how he would run the planet if he was granted overall supremacy.

The London-born comic began his show business career at the age of 12 and won the TV talent show New Faces, after an unsuccessful audition for Opportunity Knocks. After several series of his own TV show, he starred in the sitcoms Up the Elephant and Round the Castle and Home James.

Davidson proved himself to be an engaging family presenter, hosting the game shows Big Break and The Generation Game. But he continues to be a highly popular, if often controversial, adult comedian and is renowned for his blue material.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £21.

To book tickets call the box office on 0844 847 1776 or visit www.leascliffhall.org.uk.





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Pamper yourself in the lap of luxury

Dreams Beauty Salon

A LUXURY beauty salon is offering customers the chance to get ready for summer with selected treatments at half price.

Throughout May, clients at the Dreams Beauty Salon at Eastwell Manor, in Boughton Lees, Ashford, can be waxed, tinted and tanned with high-end products for 50 per cent less than the original cost.

The discounted season treatments, which are available between 9am and 11am Monday to Thursday, are carried out in one of the award-winning company's 15 rooms at the four-star hotel.

Eastwell Manor was built in the rural countryside in 1066 and its pavilion extension was added in 2000 to house the luxury spa for its guests and members.

Company director Helenne Parrett believes the salon's countryside location sets it above potential competitors.

She said: "The beautiful setting and the wide range of treatments in the luxurious surrounding makes us unique."

"It's a great place and environment to relax and unwind."

Ms Parrett also believes the spa's use of high quality products, including Jessica, Guinot and Clarins, attracts customers.

The salon boasts an extensive range of



treatments for club members and non-residents seven days a week, including popular spa and pamper days – for both men and women.

Ms Parrett recommends the Guinot hydramie facials, and says the universal contourwaps are very popular with guests.

A new hot lava shell massage treatment is about to be introduced and is also expected to prove a hit with customers.



Dreams Beauty Salon is open seven days a week, 9am to 6pm Monday to Wednesday, 9am to 8pm on Thursday and Friday, 9am to 6pm on Saturday and 10am to 5pm on Sunday. To book an appointment or for further details, get in touch on the details below.

Dreams Beauty Salon, Eastwell Park, Boughton Lees, Ashford, TN25 4HR. Telephone 01233 213111, visit www.eastwellmanor.co.uk or email dreamssalon@eastwellmanor.co.uk.

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'Dreams' is open to Non Residents To make your reservation or to request a 'Dreams' brochure, please telephone 'Dreams' on 01233 213111 or The Pavilion Reception on 01233 213100 or email: dreamssalon@eastwellmanor.co.uk or pavilion@eastwellmanor.co.uk

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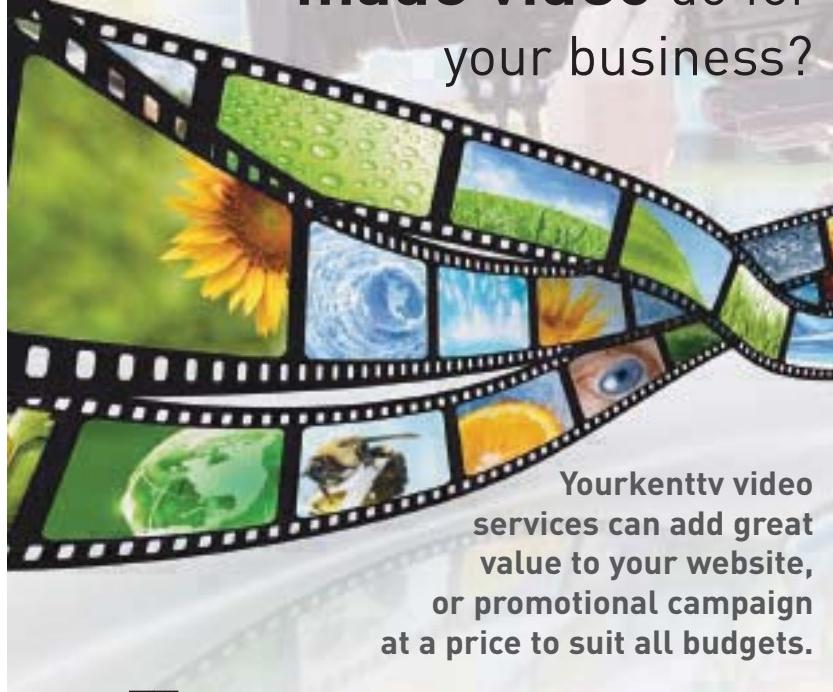
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yourmusic

Blondie join stars at the Hop Farm



JOINING LINE-UP: The timeless Blondie will be on the Hop Farm Festival's main stage

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

NEW-wave pop-rockers Blondie have been added to the Hop Farm Festival's bulging bill of all-time musical greats.

The timeless Debbie Harry-fronted outfit – famed for hits such as Sunday Girl, Heart Of Glass, Atomic and Hanging On The Telephone – will perform on the first day of the Paddock Wood weekender, taking to the stage before headliner Van Morrison.

Los Lobos, Imelda May and Damien Dempsey have also been added to that night's main-stage line-up.

The following day will see Bob Dylan, former Kinks frontman Ray Davies and Libertines singer-songwriter Pete Doherty grace the same stage.

They will be joined by Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Laura Marling, The Magic Numbers, Foxy Vance and Johnny Flynn.

Hop Farm bosses have also named a host of second-stage performers.

These include Afro Celt Sound System, Richard Thompson, Peter Green & Friends and Sweet Billy Pilgrim (all Friday) and Devendra Banhart, Jim Jones Revue, Tunng, Medway blues guitarist Pete Molinari and Jon Allen (all Saturday).

Festival-founder Vince Power said the latest additions had already gone down well with Kent's music-lovers.

"It's fantastic that we continue to see such a positive response from Hop Farm Festival fans," he said. "With the latest additions to the bill plus second stage and a third to be announced soon, there will be something for everyone."

The Hop Farm Festival will be held in Paddock Wood on Friday Saturday, July 2-3.

It boasts three stages, a five-a-side celebrity football tournament, comedy acts and a fun-fair.

A Hop Farm organiser said: "This festival offers an experience of boutique camping, top-notch

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Jus' Ben covers Keane's modern classic Everybody's Changing



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- 2 Save Target As - 30/5 Downtown Diner, Ashford
- 3 Craig Sheridan - 5/6 The Port Arms, Deal
- 4 The Cunning Plan - 16/6 Deal Town Hall
- 5 I.R.I.S. - 19/6 Quex Festival, Birchington

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LINE-UP: Van Morrison, Blondie, Los Lobos, Imelda May, Bob Dylan, Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty, Devendra Banhart, Pete Molinari



ATMOSPHERE: Enjoy a meal in Saint-Leu in Amiens before sampling the area's nightlife. Below, the gothic cathedral is a UNESCO heritage site.

yourgetaways



Discover a wealth of history and wildlife on our doorstep

■ BY ED HILL

OUR airports are under siege from volcanoes and striking BA staff, so getting away by plane can be fraught with problems.

Luckily, here in Kent we are in the prime location to take advantage of all that Europe has to offer without needing to board a plane.

A wealth of destinations is less than half a day away by car and ferry.

Picardy in the Somme region of France is a great place to start. The area already attracts a large number of British travellers who visit First World War battlefields, but the region has much to offer those less interested in military history.

After arriving in Calais, drive south for an hour to the Bay of Somme (Baie de Somme). The estuary is considered one of the most beautiful in the world and offers visitors long stretches of sandy beaches and huge skies where you can watch the wildlife or hire bicycles and sand yachts.

One of the biggest attractions for visitors is the Parc du Marquenterre. This nature reserve, which was once a tulip farm created on land recovered from the sea, offers birdwatchers the chance to get close to a wealth of migrating birds.

Familiar species such as herons and oystercatchers can be seen, but there is also the chance to see white storks on their huge nests that look like the end of a chimney sweep's brush, not seen in the UK.

On your way to the region's capital Amiens, why not stop off at the town

FACT FILE: PICARDY

Getting there

Ed Hill travelled with P&O from Dover to Calais. For latest prices, visit www.poferries.com.

Highlights

Parc du Marquenterre Nature reserve guided visit. www.parcdumarquenterre.com

Baie de Somme. Visit the 'No Shoes Club' to hire bikes, land-yachts and learn about the wildlife. www.noshoes-baiedesomme.com

To find out what Amiens has to offer, go to www.visit-amiens.com.

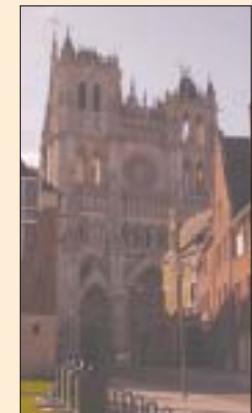
Food and accommodation

Baie de Somme: Hôtel-restaurant du Cap Hornu.

Amiens: Hôtel Mercure Cathédrale.

Restaurants

Restaurant le Quai on the waterfront of Saint Leu and La Basilique in Albert.



of Albert, which was totally rebuilt after 1918? An excellent lunch can be had at the Basilique restaurant in the town square opposite the church, with its famous golden statue of an angel and baby Jesus on the top of its tower.

The region's capital Amiens, just 30 kilometres away, makes an ideal destination for a short break.

Wander the ancient streets around the cathedral. The mighty gothic structure is a UNESCO world heritage site, with a remarkable facade full of intricate carvings of saints, kings and folklore.

An evening meal in the waterside district of Saint-Leu offers the chance to soak up the atmosphere of French dining.

The area is the historic heart of

the city but also offers modern nightlife and attracts large numbers of students who study at the nearby Faculty of Science.

Amiens is situated at the conjunction of a myriad of rivers and canals. First-time visitors should take a boat trip round the floating gardens of the Hortillonnages.

These smallholdings surrounded by water have been cultivated by locals since the Middle Ages. Most are now private gardens, although some still supply fruit and vegetables to local shops.

It is a remarkably tranquil place in the centre of the busy city and uniquely French in character. It's the ideal place to end your visit to a region that deserves being explored again and again.

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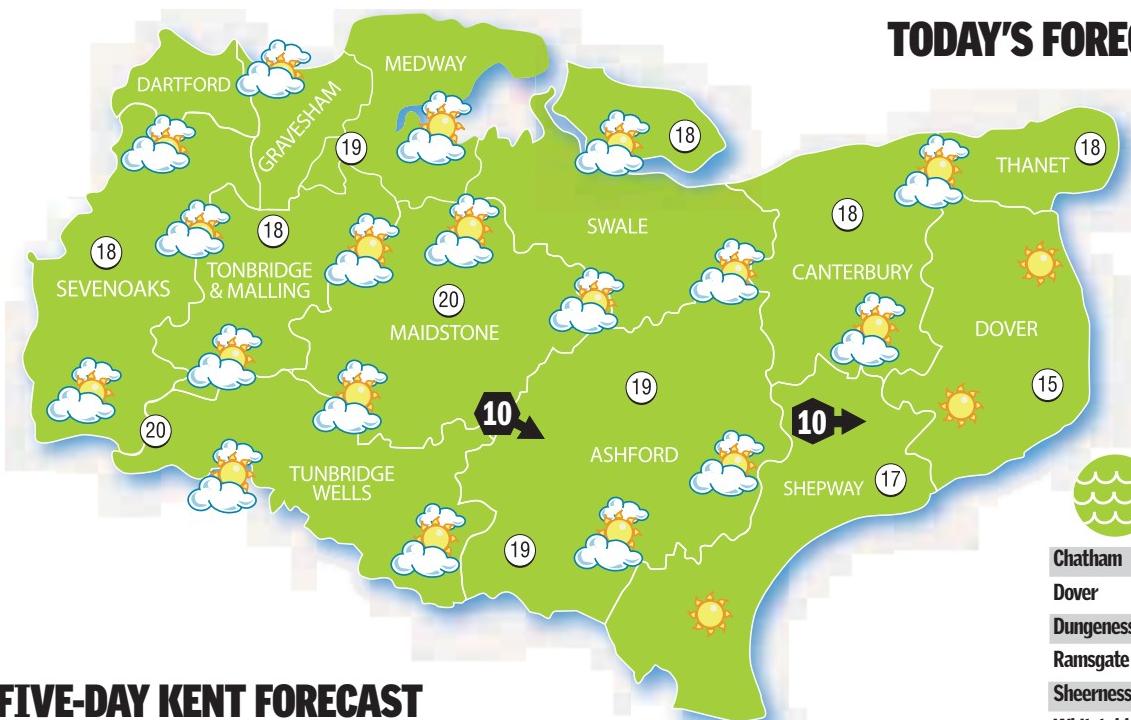
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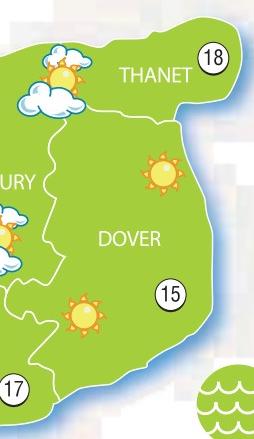


AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	15°C	Madrid	22°C
Athens	23°C	New York	19°C
Barcelona	18°C	Paris	16°C
Beijing	18°C	Rome	19°C
Bombay	33°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	23°C	Tenerife	23°C
Cardiff	14°C	Tokyo	24°C
Gibraltar	19°C	Vancouver	16°C
Hong Kong	29°C	Warsaw	11°C
Las Palmas	22°C	Wellington	16°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	18°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	21°C
Canterbury	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Chatham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Dartford	19°C	21°C	21°C	22°C	21°C
Dover	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	17°C
Faversham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Maidstone	18°C	20°C	22°C	22°C	21°C
Gravesend	19°C	21°C	21°C	22°C	21°C
Tonbridge & Malling	18°C	20°C	21°C	21°C	20°C
Tunbridge Wells	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Folkestone	15°C	16°C	18°C	17°C	17°C
Ramsgate	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Rochester	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C
Cillingham	15°C	18°C	19°C	18°C	18°C



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	8:08am 5.4m	Sunday	9:20am 5.5m
Dover	Saturday	6:43am 5.7m	Sunday	7:52am 5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	6:10am 6.3m	Sunday	7:31am 6.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	7:13am 4.3m	Sunday	8:22am 4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	7:56am 5.2m	Sunday	9:08am 5.3m
Whitstable	Saturday	8:05am 4.8m	Sunday	9:14am 4.8m



SUNRISE 4:57am SUNSET 8:47pm

MOONRISE 10:18am MOONSET 1:00am

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WIN a VIP pampering shopping day with House of Fraser at Bluewater



WIN a VIP pampering shopping day with House of Fraser at Bluewater, Europe's leading retail and leisure destination.

House of Fraser is hosting an exclusive race day themed fashion show in association with Ascot racecourse on Saturday, May 29, in the Guildhall, Bluewater.

Be inspired by the latest catwalk trends and get expert advice with fashion shows and styling workshops at noon, 1.30pm, 3.30pm and 5pm.

Spoil yourself with beauty treats throughout the day and meet experts from the leading beauty brands.

All in all, the ideal way to perfect your look and get ahead in the race day style stakes! To celebrate this fabulous day of fashion and beauty, House of Fraser Bluewater is offering one lucky reader and friend a VIP day with House of Fraser Bluewater. They will each receive front-row seats to the 3.30pm fashion show on May 29, personal style consultation with £100 gift card to spend in store, plus a makeover and beauty treatment.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to House Of Fraser Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Closing date is May 24, 2010.



QUESTION: WHAT DATE IS THE THEMED FASHION SHOW TAKING PLACE IN THE GUILDHALL AT BLUEWATER?

No purchase necessary. For our full Terms and Conditions, please visit www.kentnews.co.uk, or for a posted copy call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature, please write 'no literature' on your entry.

Terms and Conditions: Entrants must be resident in the UK and aged 18 years or over. The prize is one pair of front row tickets to the 3.30pm House of Fraser fashion show on Saturday, May 29, 2010, personal shopping

consultation, £100 gift card, makeover and beauty treatment for the winner and guest.

The personal shopping experience and beauty treatments are by appointment only. The prize is only valid at House of Fraser Bluewater. Prize is non refundable, non transferable and there is no cash alternative.

The winner will be selected from all the valid entries received and notified no later than May 24, 2010.

By participating in this promotion, entrants are deemed to have accepted these rules. The promoter reserves the right to alter these terms and conditions at any time. Promoter: House of Fraser (Stores) Ltd, 27 Baker Street, London W1U 8AH.

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Russell Crowe doesn't quite hit the bullseye in Scott's Robin Hood

■ BY DAMON SMITH

EVERY generation has its own version of Robin Hood.

Douglas Fairbanks donned the tights with pride in the early 1920s, followed by a dashing Errol Flynn with a feather in his cap in the 1930s and Richard Greene in the long-running 1950s TV series.

Disney cast a wily fox as Robin in the splendid 1973 animated version before Michael Praed and then Jason Connery portrayed "the hooded man" in the popular ITV series Robin of Sherwood.

Kevin Costner flexed his bow to Bryan Adams' (Everything I Do) I Do It For You and most recently Jonas Armstrong sexed up the Saturday night schedule on BBC One as the eponymous crusader.

With each new incarnation, the mythology has been embellished and any historical veracity sacrificed at the altar of artistic license.

Director Ridley Scott and leading man Russell Crowe – who worked together on the Oscar-winning Gladiator – reunite for a thunderous new opening chapter in the legend of the 12th century folk hero.

Shot with Scott's typical bombast, this Robin Hood juxtaposes spectacular battle scenes with romantic interludes, political intrigue and melancholic flashbacks, all set to Marc Treitenfeld's rumbustious score.

It's unabashedly macho and predictable with an inevitable battle cry for Crowe to rally the troops into action: Gladiarcher, if you will.

Richard The Lionheart is slain on the battlefield by the besieged French.

Fearless archer Robin Longstride (Crowe) and his friends Little John, Will Scarlet and Allan A'Dayle head back to England.

In order to secure safe passage back home, Robin poses as slain knight Sir Robert Loxley and continues the ruse with the dead man's wife, Marion (Kate Blanchett), in order that she clings onto the family estate once ruled by the now blind and decrepit Sir Loxley.



GLADIARCHER: The latest Robin Hood starring Russell Crowe (above) as Robin, is unabashedly macho and predictable

Over time, Robin falls in love with Marion but any chances of an enduring romance are threatened by double-crossing Godfrey (Mark Strong).

Meanwhile in London, Prince John seizes the throne but quickly makes enemies of advisor William Marshal and his mother, Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Robin Hood is a lively jaunt through Plantagenet history, incorporating the famil-

iar figures of Friar Tuck and the Sheriff of Nottingham.

Crowe's accent roams the British Isles depending on who he is acting opposite, which is distracting, but Blanchett is luminous with an unshakable Nottingham burr, which adds warmth to some choice lines of dialogue.

"I sleep with a dagger," Marion warns Robin when they first meet. "If you so much as move to touch me, I will sever your manhood!"

VIEW THIS PREVIEW



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Strong doesn't overplay his villain, hissing all of the usual orders to kill Robin, with flecks of humour courtesy of the soon-to-be-Merry Men.

Screenwriter Brian Helgeland ends with Robin and co exiled in the forest, accompanied by the title card, "And so the legend begins".

If Scott's film hits the bullseye at the box office, you can be sure that Robin and Marion will ride again in a sequel.

ROBIN HOOD
Certificate 12A

PICTURE BBC



ALL AT SEA: BBC4 have documented actor Timothy Spall's barge trip around the UK



YOUR TV REVIEW **TIMOTHY SPALL - SOMEWHERE AT SEA:** BBC4, 10.30pm, Wednesday

YOU may have noticed BBC4 is currently in the middle of its Sea Fever season.

These themed nights give the corporation a chance to repeat a load of programmes under the banner of one all encompassing title.

But really it's just a cheap way to fill up the digital channel's airtime.

Sea Fever is no exception, but to make the viewer feel like they are not being totally ripped off, one or two new programmes are commissioned to hang the whole schedule on.

One of these is the actor Timothy Spall's trip around the British coast in a barge.

Timothy Spall: Somewhere at Sea is entertaining, but I am not sure if it's for the right reasons.

To say that Mr Spall is a nervous sea goer is putting it mildly. I have never seen someone so willingly

put them themselves in front of a camera to show how out of their depth they are (excuse the pun).

Timothy tells us he first began his boating life on the canals of Britain.

Then after a cancer scare he decided, with his wife Shane, to have a Dutch barge built so they could motor their way from port to port around the country.

I can't believe that the amount of stress he suffers in making the shortest sea-going trip is going to help the Leukaemia stay in remission.

In last week's episode Timothy and Shane had to make their way around Land's End to Newlyn, but first the actor, best-known for his breakthrough role in Auf Wiedersehen Pet, had to navigate

his way past the infamous Lizard Point. The Lizard is a long four-mile rocky outcrop that stretches under the sea. In bad weather it has caught out many seafarers.

Our hapless thespian skipper waited three months for the weather to be calm enough to take on the challenge. Even then, when the sea showed all the viciousness of one of those water features you see trickling away at a garden centre, he thought he might have to turn back. His anxiety levels rose as the Beaufort wind scale dropped to zero.

Despite this giving the viewer the feeling the best option is to jump overboard and swim for the shore, Timothy Spall's honesty about his lack of expertise is engaging.

After all, who can fault a man whose first priority after reaching port is to go for a good curry?

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08 Ford Focus Hatchback 1.6 Zetec 5dr

Cash Price	Deposit	58 Monthly Payments	Weekly Equivalent	1 Final Payment
£9499	£1250	£180.80	£41.72	£330.80
Total Amount Payable £12067.20*			APR 11.9%	



08 Ford Fiesta Hatchback 1.4 Style 3dr

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£6990	£950	£155.93	£35.98	£305.93
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57 Ford Mondeo Hatchback 2.0 Edge 5dr

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06/56 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 ZETEC 3DR CLIMATE NON STANDARD COLOUR, 44397 MILES	£5999	04/04 CITROEN BERLINGO MULTISPACE 1.9D FORTE 5DR METALLIC - POSEIDON BLUE, 54364 MILES	£3999
05/05 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 ZETEC 5DR METALLIC-PANTHER BLACK, 20256 MILES	£5499	04/04 CITROEN C2 1.6 16V GT 3DR SOLID-BLACK, 47665 MILES	£4499
08/08 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE NON STANDARD COLOUR, 43876 MILES	£6499	05/05 CITROEN C3 1.4 HDI 16V XTR 5DR METALLIC-HURRICANE GREY, 49000 MILES	£4499
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Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 48,500 miles. £6,995

Skoda Octavia 1.6 FSI Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 32,300 miles. £6,795

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Comfort (75 HP) 5-Dr Estate Feb 2004

Graphite Grey Metallic 48,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £4,995

Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Metallic Laser Blue, Manual, 23,400 miles £3,995

Skoda Octavia 1.4 Classic 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Silver Metallic with a Grey Cloth interior, 79,450 miles. £2,995

*Correct at time of going to press.

Other Makes

BMW 5 Series 3.0TD 530d M Sport 4-Dr Saloon

Finished in Metallic Titanium Grey, Automatic, 33,500 miles £18,495

SEAT Toledo 1.9 TDI PD Styleline 5-Door Hatchback Sep 2006

Nayara Blue Metallic 20,695 miles * Manual Diesel £8,495

Mitsubishi Lancer 1.6 Equipe 4-Door Saloon

Finished in Metallic Gunmetal Grey, Manual, 21,800 miles £7,995

Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16v Design 5-Door Estate Jan 2005

Metro Blue Metallic 29,700 miles * Automatic Petrol £6,495

SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12v Reference Sport 3-Door Hatchback Apr 2007

Black Magic Metallic 40,055 miles * Manual Petrol £6,295

Citroen Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 5-Door MPV

Finished in Misty Lilac Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 42,500 miles. £5,495

Ford Focus 1.6 LX 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Aquarius Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 61,000 miles. £5,295

Fiat Multipla 1.6 100 16v ELX 5-Door MPV

Finished in Antarctic Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 68,900 miles. £4,995

Citroen C3 Pluriel 1.6 2-Door Cabriolet Jan 2004

Artic Steel Metallic 86,467 miles * Manual Petrol £4,495

Fiat Punto 1.2 Active 5-Door Hatchback

Finished in Astral Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 41,430 miles. £4,495

Suzuki Wagon R 1.3 GL 75 BHP 5-Door Hatchback Mar 2002

Bright Red 39,350 miles * Manual Petrol £3,995

Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Colorado Red with a Black Cloth interior, 56,500 miles. £3,995

Ford Ka 1.3 3-Door Hatchback

Finished in Blue Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 39,500 miles. £2,995

Renault Scenic 1.6 Expression + 5-Dr Hatchback Apr 2001

Norse Grey Metallic 71,500 miles * Automatic Petrol £2,795



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Day Three - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Friday, 11th June - 11am.



CHARTHAM
Link Detached House for Improvement
Guide: £180-190,000



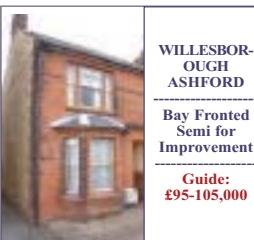
RAMSGATE
Former Hall Premises with Potential
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DOVER
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Guide: £100-145,000



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Bungalow on Good Size Plot
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DEAL
35 Lock-Up Garages
Guide: £170-180,000



LITTLEBOURNE
Plot with Planning for Bungalow
Guide: £65-70,000



SMEETH
Terraced Cottage for Improvement
Guide: £110-115,000



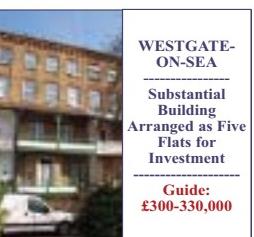
FOLKESTONE
Two Bedroom Flat for Investment
Guide: £70-75,000



HERNE BAY
Bungalow for Improvement
Guide: £130-140,000



LEYBOURNE
Detached House in One-Third Acre.
Guide: £330-350,000



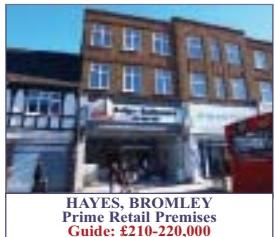
WESTGATE-ON-SEA
Substantial Building Arranged as Five Flats for Investment
Guide: £300-330,000



FAVERSHAM
Vacant Three Bedroom Flat
Guide: £60-65,000



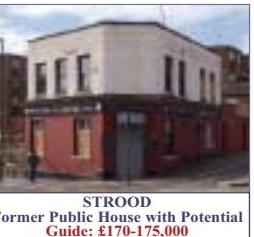
HERNE BAY
Flat for Improvement
Guide: £40-50,000



HAYES, BROMLEY
Prime Retail Premises
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SITTINGBOURNE
Semi & Building Plot for Det. House
Total Guide: £130-150,000



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Former Public House with Potential
Guide: £170-175,000



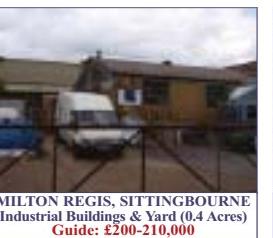
MAIDSTONE
Semi as 2 Flats close to Town Centre
Guide: £175-180,000



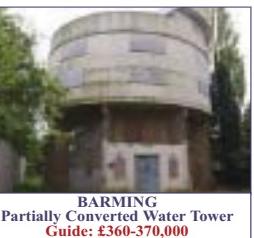
WIGMORE
Bungalow for Refurb. with 0.4 Acres
Guide: £175-180,000



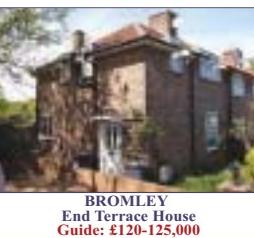
GILLINGHAM
Vacant House for Improvement
Guide: £75,000 Plus



MILTON REGIS, SITTINGBOURNE
Industrial Buildings & Yard (0.4 Acres)
Guide: £200-210,000



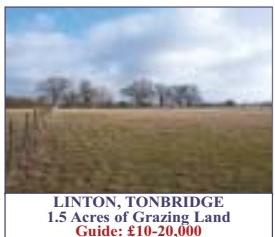
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BROMLEY
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Guide: £20-30,000



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GOUDHURST
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BEAVER ROAD £135,995

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Kennington



Park Road £169,995

Well presented 3 bed semi in lovely location. Gge, hallway, lounge to front, dining to rear, rear kitchen and lean-to. Two double beds, a single bed and bathroom. Chain free!

Singleton



Running Foxes Lane £169,995

Well presented two double bedroom chain free semi detached house with garage. Lounge/diner, downstairs WC, family bathroom and parking for one car.

Bridewell



Woodside OIEO £170,000

3 bed semi-det with large driveway, lounge, kitchen/diner and secluded woodland views rear garden. Space to side. Two double beds and a single bed.

Park Farm



Wood Lane OIEO £178,000

3 bedroom EOT house with parking for about 6 cars. Entrance hallway, cloakroom, kitchen to front, lounge/diner, conservatory, rear and side garden, master bedroom with bespoke fitted wardrobes. Two further bedrooms and family bathroom.

Willesborough Lees



Winslade Terrace OIEO £195,000

Chain free 3 bed semi-det with allocated parking. Kitchen/bfst, lounge/diner, cloakroom, bathroom, en-suite, two double beds and one single.

Singleton Hill



Melcombe Close Fixed £220,000

Four double bedroom detached house with garage. Lounge, kitchen/diner with utility, downstairs WC, en suite, cul de sac location. Priced to sell!

Singleton



Hoppers Way £239,995

3 bedroom detached house with garage. Entrance porch, lounge to front, diner to rear. Modern fitted kitchen at rear. 2 double bedrooms, a good-sized single bedroom, modern en-suite shower, family bathroom, cloakroom and terraced rear garden.

Singleton Hill



Tunbridge Way OIEO £265,000

A stunning 4 bed detached house with double garage. Large lounge, separate dining room, kitchen/breakfast and utility. Cloak and bath. Large master bedroom with ensuite.

Sandyhurst Lane



Sandyhurst Lane £375,000

Detached 4 bed chalet bungalow, det garage plus 5 parking. Fully refurbished. Large garden. Lounge, large dining/2nd reception. Shower room and family bathroom.

Town Centre



Albert Road £435,000

6 bed detached house requiring some updating. Large entrance hallway, large lounge, kitchen diner, 1st fl 4 beds & 2 baths and 2nd fl 2 beds and 1 shower rm.

Ruckinge



Marsh Road £750,000

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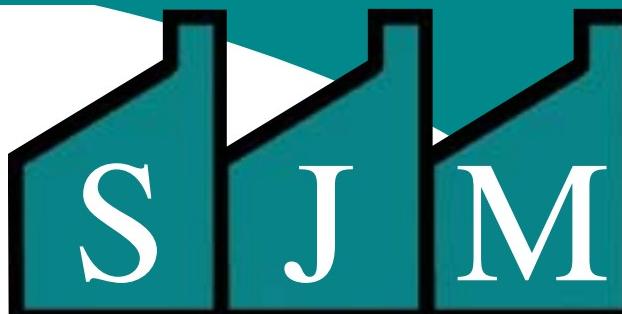
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Executive det property in sought after area, four beds, master en suite, sitting room, sep dining room, kitchen, u/room, bathroom, double ggs, dble drive, well pres, must be seen.

OIEO £340,000

**KENNINGTON**

Detached property, four bedrooms (master with en suite), cloakroom sitting room, dining room, kitchen with utility area, bathroom, double garage, gas heating, double glazing.

£365,000

**CHARTFIELDS**

Coach house style property, two bedrooms sitting / dining room, Fitted kitchen, bathroom, garage, no chain.

£144,995

**SINGLETON**

Four bed link det home features large master bedroom with en suite, kitchen, u/room, sitting room, sep dining room, main bathroom, cul de sac, d/glazed, gas heating, drive and gge.

£249,995

**WILLESBOROUGH**

Character cottage style property, near to schools and local shops, sitting/dining room, kitchen, bathroom, three bedrooms, no chain.

£153,995

**CLOSE TO TOWN**

Two bedroom mid terr hse. kitchen sitting room bathroom two allocated parking spaces gas heating d/glazing no chain.

£143,995

**KENNINGTON**

Study, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, d/glazed gas heating, courtyard with storage shed, good sized garden, no chain.

£145,000

**SELLINGDE**

Good sized one (double) bed ground floor flat, large sitting room, kitchen, bathroom, gas heating, double glazed, allocated parking, no chain.

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**WILLESBOROUGH**

First floor flat two bedrooms, sitting room kitchen bathroom, gas heating double glazing, off road parking, rear garden.

£115,000

**KNIGHTS PARK**

Situated in small cul de sac detached three bedroom house (master en suite) sitting room dining room kitchen utility room cloakroom bathroom garage parking rear garden not overlooked.

£239,995

**WYE**

Two double bedroom bungalow sitting room kitchen shower room conservatory / sun room double glazed walking distance from local shops.

£175,000

**KENNINGTON**

Detached house, three bedrooms (master en suite), open plan sitting room / dining room, kitchen, bathroom, cloakroom, gas heating, d/glazing, no chain.

£214,995

**WILLESBOROUGH**

You can see Willesborough and the North Downs from this first floor maisonette, one bed (double), kitchen, sitting room, bathroom, double glazed, gas heating, use of large comm gds, parking.

£115,000

**WILLESBOROUGH**

Loft void fully boarded with rooflight and own stair access, bay windowed vic cott home, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two bedroom, first floor bathroom, gas heating, double glazings.

£149,995

**KENNINGTON**

End terrace house, three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen/diner, bathroom, gas heating, d/glazing, well placed for local shops and schools, 16'5" x 7'4" conservatory.

£139,995

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Kennington

A beautiful three bedroom linked detached house, enjoying spacious and versatile living accommodation, having lounge, separate dining room fitted kitchen, en-suite master bedroom and cloakroom.

Ashford Office

£237,500

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Mersham

Weedwell Cottage is a delightful former coach house set in the village of Mersham. This lovely period property has been refurbished by the present owner to create a light, spacious and charming home.

Ashford Office

£250,000

01233 624561



Ashford

£115,000

This property, in our opinion, is priced to sell and is a good opportunity offered with no onward chain. The house consists of two well proportioned bedrooms and family bathroom (not fitted).

Ashford Office

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Willesborough

£222,500

This two bedroom semi detached bungalow benefits from having two double sized bedrooms, a kitchen with fully integrated appliances, 17ft conservatory, rear garden and garage.

Ashford Office

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Ashford

£235,000

This four bedroom period town house is situated on one of Ashford's few conservation roads. Being centrally located, it is within a short walk of both the town centre and international railway station.

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Ashford

This three bedroom, two reception room semi detached property with drive way and small garage. Nicely and recently decorated through out, the property ahhs been fitted with a brand new bathroom suite.

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Ashford

£230,000

A well presented three storey town house enjoying a semi rural location with a vista of the surrounding countryside. The house incorporates four bedrooms, three bathrooms.

Ashford Office

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Egerton

Kennington

Willesborough

£270,000

Three bedroom semi detached property nestled in a rural village. On the ground floor is the kitchen, family bathroom and the lounge leading onto the conservatory and out to the garden.

Ashford Office

01233 624561

£290,000

This three bedroom detached cottage style property is located in a sort after area of Kennington. Bockhanger Lodge is set back from the lane, the property has private front and rear gardens.

Ashford Office

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£250,000

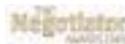
The property benefits with having lounge, dining area, large fitted kitchen, downstairs cloak room, utility room and conservatory which leads out into the rear garden. To the rear of the garden is wooden workshop.

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- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Two levelled rear garden
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 - Lounge, dining, cloakroom, kitchen
 - Conservatory garage, ORP, rear garden
- £267,500**

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Willesborough

- Three bedroom det chalet bungalow
 - Lounge/diner, bathroom, separate shower
 - Kitchen, driveway & garden
- £217,500**

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Willesborough

- Three bedroom semi detached
 - Hall, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom
 - Master bedroom with en-suite
- £195,000**

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Ashford

- Grade II listed town house
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Ashford

- Three bedroom end of terrace house
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Ashford

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 - Kitchen and bathroom
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Ashford



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Ashford



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Kennington



£169,995

Three bedroom end of terrace home. Kitchen, cloakroom, lounge/diner with three bedrooms and bathroom.

Ashford



OIRO £175,000

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Ashford



Offers Over £215,000

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£269,950

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OIEO £230,000

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- Available now!

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Please email your CV to lorraine@ddautosashford.co.uk or alternatively, please call Lorraine on 01233 504765

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SUNDAY RECEPTIONIST

We're looking for a Sunday Receptionist to meet and greet customers coming into our busy Maidstone dealership. As the first point of contact you must be a well-presented individual with a professional manner. Basic administrative and telephone experience will be required as well as ad-hoc duties within the showroom.

To apply for these positions email your CV to Mark Wood, Dealer Principal: mark.wood@whitehousegroup.co.uk

Whitehouse Maidstone
1-17 The Broadway Maidstone, Kent ME16 8QX



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Advanced Skills Lecturer in Civil Engineering Ref: P0333

Salary: £40,512 per annum

Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in leading the development of Civil Engineering programmes across the Faculty of Design and Construction. The successful candidates will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold a Degree or higher qualification in Civil Engineering or a related specialism. Previous industry experience is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: Wednesday 2 June 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



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Heath Farm Foster Care, Education & Therapy
To support our continued growth and development we are seeking to recruit the following positions:

TEAM MANAGER (New Post)

£38,000 - £45,000 • Company Car Provided

We are seeking an experienced, highly motivated and forward thinking social worker to manage the social work team towards achieving best outcomes for children and young people through providing high levels of support to carers and effective coordination of Health Farm services. Social Work Qualification and GSCC Registration essential.

ADMINISTRATOR (New Post)

£13,011

To support the social work team we are seeking an additional administrator. You will be responsible for the company database and provide back up support to reception.

Experienced user of MS Office applications or similar required.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

To the right candidates we can offer a range of benefits including excellent working conditions, private health care insurance, company pension scheme and access to regular supervision and professional development.

Closing date for both applications is Monday 7th June 2010
Interviews will take place w/c 14th June 2010

Heath Farm is an Equal Opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

If you have the ability and qualities required and wish to join a successful and growing organisation where your skills will be appreciated, email wcameron@heathfarm.org for an application pack Tel: 01233 712030

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01303 817040

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Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF
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Tel: 01474 566552 Fax: 01474 537405
email: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk
Website: <http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk>

Headteacher's Personal Assistant (PA) (with Clerk to Governors' Role)

Required for June 2010

37 hours per week for 40 weeks per year (term time plus one week)
Kent Salary Scale 8 (pts 24-28) £23,053.00 to £26,421.00 pa
Pro rata to £19,959.29 to £22875.30 pa
Plus an allowance of £1600 pa for out of hours meetings
Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day

We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated administrative member of staff to the permanent position of Headteacher's PA to support her continuing to deliver a high level of leadership at our successful school. You will be the key confidential secretarial and administrative support for the Headteacher, line managing the main Office staff and working alongside the leadership team to help continue to move the school forward. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of efficiency.
- Be able to liaise and communicate confidently with all levels of the school and its local community.
- Be confident to work independently, take initiative and multi-task.
- Have a cheerful disposition and demonstrate a positive outlook.
- Be a self-motivated worker who enjoys working in a school with young people.
- Be a positive, professional role model to the admin team.
- Be highly organised and able to manage your time well to meet deadlines when juggling a range of tasks

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. Our new reception area has been designed to create an open-plan welcoming environment.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

You will be expected to submit an application form, including a 2-page letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the school then we want you to apply. If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also on our website: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

**Closing Date - 27th May 2010 at 10.00am
Interviews - w/c 7th June 2010**

The school is very conveniently located – 50 minutes to central London by train; 5 minutes to Ebbsfleet International Station; 15 minutes to the M25. Candidates are very welcome to visit the school. Please call to make arrangements.

*We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students.
Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau.
Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy*

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Community Cohesion Officer Sheerness

Salary - £21,659 to £28,805 • 37 hours p.w.

The Borough of Swale is a diverse area with a fast growing population providing both opportunities and challenges to its communities.

Sheerness and the Isle of Sheppey in particular are experiencing significant changes and to help ensure that Sheerness has a strong, active and engaged community, a Community Cohesion Officer is required for Sheerness.

We are seeking a creative and self-motivated individual to work sensitively with both the local communities and agencies to deliver a programme of projects and activities to address local issues and needs and encourage participation.

You will have proven experience of working in a community development setting with a range of different communities e.g. age ranges, faiths and races.

The successful post holder will join Swale Borough Council's Community Team but will be based in Sheerness.

This is a fixed term post until 31 March 2011. Secondment or job-share would be considered.

To discuss the position please contact Kirsty Gaunt, Community Development Officer on 01795 417457 kirstygaunt@swale.gov.uk

Closing Date: 7th June 2010
Interviews: w/c 14th June 2010

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Required for September 2010

The Westlands School is seeking to appoint a school welfare assistant with basic first aid training. The key responsibilities will be to assist students with health/medical concerns and to be in charge of the day to day running of the welfare room.

You are welcome to contact the school for a preliminary discussion if desired. Recruitment packs are available from the school or online. Closing date, Friday, 21 May 2010

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1PF
www.westlands.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 47946
Email: sva@westlands.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: J Whitcombe MA



Will Adams Centre
Woodlands Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 2BX
Phone: 01634 337111
Email: pattj009@medway.org.uk

Part-time Teacher of Art

(MPS plus 2 SEN points 0.6fte)

Required from September 2010

The Will Adams Centre has been judged as a "good" KS4 pupil referral unit situated in Gillingham by Ofsted in 2009. The centre provides support and educational opportunities to students who have been permanently excluded from mainstream school or who find it difficult to access their educational entitlement. The centre has a vacancy for a qualified teacher of art who will have key responsibility for developing and delivering a range of programs including GCSE to students who are disaffected or who have behavioural/emotional difficulties.

The ideal candidate will be registered with the GTC and will preferably have experience of working with disaffected students or those with behavioural/emotional difficulties.

For more information and to apply, please contact Mrs. J Patterson, Head Teacher, Will Adams Centre, Woodlands Rd, Gillingham, or phone 01634 337111.

Closing date: 21 May 2010



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Skills & Employability Coaches are required:

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Candidates should have experience in engaging and motivating disadvantaged and excluded groups and demonstrate a desire to pass on their skills and experience to clients. Previous experience of coaching/mentoring with this client group will be a distinct advantage.

Whilst it is beneficial for candidates to be working towards or to hold a recognised qualification in Information Advice and Guidance, teaching certificate, NVQ Assessor Award (A1) and Internal Verifier, Award (V1), Justonestep will provide training and support for the right candidate to achieve these qualifications if necessary.

Salary: £16k – £22k pro rata. Negotiable + benefits (Competitive depending on qualifications)

Location: Thanet and Kent & Medway

Closing Date: 7th June

Start Date: End of June

Initial contract period: June 2010- July 2012

This is an exciting opportunity to join a forward thinking, innovative and vibrant company and so if you are a committed, hard working, supportive, flexible team member and have the ability to relate to a wide range of people, we would like to hear from you.

To apply for this role please contact **Julie Durant** on 07969 463 809 for an informal chat, or e-mail your CV with covering letter to julie@justonestep.co.uk

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in this
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PUBLIC NOTICE

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004 APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: Elvey Farm, Elvey Lane, Pluckley, Ashford

Simon Peek

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
Regulatory Services
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 1XX





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CRICKET

■ BY TOM HOWARD

Kent Cricket League Division One

Ashford Town 1st XI v Sandwich Town 1st XI

ASHFORD Town managed to hang on to a winning draw despite a late charge from Sandwich Town at Stacians Park.

Town captain Liam Tegg won the toss and elected to bat, making a solid start to the innings alongside Simon Taylor. The new skipper hit a half century before his wicket was taken by the impressive Matthew Van Poppel.

Gary Sutton (28), Kyle McAllister (29) and Peter Shields (20) added to the total before Sandwich ripped through the tail to leave Ashford to defend 220. Van Poppel did the damage with figures of 5 for 48.

Sandwich's reply started slowly as they lost Craig Snell for a duck off the bowling of Simon Taylor. However, David Scoggins (26) and Stuart Smith (77) racked up the runs to give their side a platform to challenge for the win.

Vishaul Singh (44) and Gary Burgess (22) continued to chase down the target at an encouraging pace before Mohsin Raza struck with two swift wickets.

As the game ticked towards the final over, Ashford were nervously looking over their shoulders as the advantage decreased by the delivery.

In the end, it came down to the 50th and final over with Van Poppel and Jack Bradley at the crease. The pair battled hard to try and find the winning runs, but Ashford held on to a winning draw by just five runs.

Town hang on to draw



DRAW: Ashford's bowlers did just enough to hold their nerve and hang on to a winning draw in their first home game of the season

Scoreboard			
Ashford Town 1st XI			
			Runs
Simon Taylor	ct Lawrence b Bradley	.....	28
Liam Tegg	ct Slater b van Poppel	.....	51
Luke Reeves	run out Bradley	.....	45
Gary Sutton	lbw b van Poppel	.....	28
Kyle McAllister	lbw b van Poppel	.....	29
Peter Shields	run out Chapman	.....	20
Sam Kennett	b van Poppel	.....	5
Craig Buckingham	ct Chapman b Bradley	.....	0
Mohsin Raza	not out	.....	1
Luca Sardo	b van Poppel	.....	3
Darren Cooper	not out	.....	0
Extras (3b 3lb 2w 2nb)	.....	10	
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	.....	220	

Bowlers			
0	M	R	W
Craig Spanton	10	0	51
Liam Evans	8	1	48
Matthew van Poppel	15	4	48
Jack Bradley	14	2	57
Tom Chapman	3	0	10

Sandwich Town 1st XI

Runs			
Craig Snell	ct Kennett b Taylor	.....	0
David Scoggins	lbw b Taylor	.....	26
Stuart Smith	ct Sardo b Raza	.....	77
Vishaul Singh	ct Cooper b Raza	.....	44
Gary Burgess	lbw b Raza	.....	22
Tom Chapman	b Taylor	.....	10
Gavin Lawrence	run out	.....	0
Craig Spanton	st McAllister b Tegg	.....	9
Liam Evans	run out	.....	3
Matthew van Poppel	not out	.....	6
Jack Bradley	not out	.....	1
Extras (1b 5lb 3w 8nb)	.....	17	
Total (9 wickets, 50 overs)	.....	215	

Bowlers			
0	M	R	W
Simon Taylor	14	3	34
Mohsin Raza	13	0	65
Darren Cooper	6	0	36
Liam Tegg	13	2	42
Craig Buckingham	4	0	32

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT CRICKET DIVISION TWO

HSBC 1st XI v Tenterden 1st XI

A CENTURY from Andrew Crawford in a comfortable 55 run win continued Tenterden's impressive start to the new season.

HSBC put the visitors into bat first and the decision looked to be a smart one but for the performance of Crawford. The host's bowling attack was unable to stop the opener scoring 103 of Tenterden's 211 runs.

Lef with a reasonable score to defend, Tenterden's bowlers made life difficult for HSBC, who were bowled out for just 156.

Tenterden 1st XI

	Runs
Tim Curteis	ct Heard b Bate
Andrew Crawford	ct Slater b Golbourne
Timir Chanda	ct & b Coleman
Darren Bailey	ct Heard b Coleman
Paul Brann	ct Heard b Coleman
Nick Daynes	bl Slater
Simon Berry	ct & b Golbourne
Ben Daking	st Heard b Golbourne
Mark Brann	b Coleman
James Rand	not out
Mark Baker	st Heard b Golbourne
Extras	(7b 10lb 5w 4nb)
Total	(all out, 50 overs)

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Alan Slater	12	3	38	1
Liam Jensen	8	2	23	0
Stuart Bate	3	0	16	1
Richard Golbourne	14	2	59	4
Adam Coleman	8	0	30	4
Nicholas Wheddon	5	0	28	0

HSBC 1st XI

	Runs
Richard Golbourne	lbw b Rand
Jack Harris	ct Curteis b Baker
Adam Coleman	ct Daking b Baker
Stuart Bate	ct Curteis b Chanda
Alan Slater	ct Daking b Chanda
Richard Slater	ct Curteis b Rand
Harry Freeman	lbw b Chanda
Jordan Heard	ct Brann b Baker
Tom Hutton	lbw b Rand
Nicholas Wheddon	b Rand
Liam Jensen	not out
Extras	(5b 1lb 3nb)
Total	(all out, 49.3 overs)

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Ben Daking	6	2	20	0
James Rand	9.3	1	32	4
Timir Chanda	15	2	33	3
Mark Baker	15	1	55	3
Tim Curteis	4	0	10	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Chislehurst & West Kent 1st XI v Ashford Town 3rd XI

AN embarrassing 228 run defeat left Ashford Town 3rd XI still searching for their first victory of the new season.

Ashford's troubles began with their bowling attack failing to trouble Chislehurst & West Kent's batsmen. Opener Harry Stafford plundered 142 before eventually being bowled by James Crannis. More runs followed as Chislehurst eventually declared on 298 for 4.

Town never looked like pulling off a sensational fight back, as they were bowled out for just 70 after 28 overs. Dan Cadd top scored with 30 late in the innings.

Chislehurst & West Kent 1st XI

	Runs
Harry Stafford	c & b J Crannis
Paul Finch	b Cadd
Travis King	b N Crannis
Paul Crowley	c & b Brown
Hetti Waruna Rajapasha	not out
Wilhelm von Mollendorff	not out
David Carr	did not bat
Justin Paton	did not bat
Alistair MacCallum	did not bat
James Monaghan	did not bat
Andy Robinson	did not bat
Extras	(6b 3lb 4w)
Total	(4 wickets dec, 43 overs)

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Ian Thomas	11	0	74	0
Dan Cadd	8	0	42	1
Rob Brown	11	1	70	1
Nigel Crannis	6	0	46	1
James Crannis	7	0	62	1

Ashford Town 3rd XI

	Runs
Nigel Crannis	b Finch
Simon Woodhams	b Monaghan
Rob Beale	b Monaghan
Rob Brown	b Monaghan
Arthur Mynott	ct Stafford b Finch
David Foord	ct Waruna Rajapasha b Robinson
Dan Cadd	ct Stafford b King
Ian Thomas	ct Stafford b King
James Crannis	ct Monaghan b Robinson
Christopher Russell	not out
Joshua Deane	b Robinson
Extras	(5b 1lb 4w)
Total	(all out, 28 overs)

Bowlers

	0	M	R	W
Paul Finch	8	3	13	2
James Monaghan	6	2	5	3
Andy Robinson	8	2	26	3
Travis King	6	1	14	2

KENT REGIONAL CRICKET LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP EAST

Wye 1st XI v Littlebourne 1st XI

AN unbeaten knock of 89 from Daniel Noden put Wye in a commanding position on their way to a five-wicket win.

Littlebourne battled hard against Wye's economical five man bowling attack, but were limited to only 173. Stuart Wise was the pick of the bowlers, finishing with figures of 5 for 53.

Wye's reply started slowly but once Noden occupied the crease, the runs started to flow, and he helped guide his side past Littlebourne's total in the 32nd over.

Littlebourne 1st XI

	Runs
Jonathon Holton	b Wise
Steve Davies	ct Eve b Woodbridge
Owen Holton	ct Eve b Wise
Jason Robson	b Secrett
Tony Beer	ct Woodbridge b Wise
Richard Keir	b Wise
Karl Farbrace	ct Wise b Barlow
Gareth Cornhill	b Woodbridge
Will Elgar	ct Eve b Wise
Alex Woodbridge	b Wise
Keith Secrett	12
Stuart Wise	12
Matt Barlow	3

	Runs
Jonathon Holton	b Wise
Steve Davies	10
Owen Holton	27
Jason Robson	11
Tony Beer	18
Richard Keir	25
Karl Farbrace	7
Gareth Cornhill	11
Will Elgar	4
Alex Woodbridge	3
Keith Secrett	1
Stuart Wise	5
Matt Barlow	1

	Runs
Will Elgar	not out
Alex Woodbridge	did not bat
Keith Secrett	did not bat
Stuart Wise	did not bat
Matt Barlow	did not bat
Will Elgar	5
Alex Woodbridge	34
Keith Secrett	42
Stuart Wise	42
Matt Barlow	1

	Runs

<

The future looks bright with Town's new budget

FOOTBALL

■ BY TOM HOWARD

MANAGER Steve Lovell, whose Ashford Town side escaped relegation to the Kent League on last season's final day, is looking forward to a brighter future.

Behind his cause for optimism is the playing budget given to him by chairman Don Crosbie, who predicted that better times lay ahead for the club in a speech made at the Player-of-the-Year presentation awards.

Lovell, who was left relieved but drained after the club's great escape, which hinged on them beating Chatham Town on the last day, confirmed: "I have been given my budget for next season and I'm already talking to potential new signings."

"This is great compared to last year when we started pre-season so late. I think we will be looking to bring in at least half a dozen new players by the start of pre-season."

"Myself, Mark Patterson and Don have had several discussions and are excited by the opportunity. I'm very happy with what we have got to work with for next season."

He added: "All players from higher clubs interest me at the moment."

"But we have earmarked areas which we know we need to improve and we have made



NEW DAWN: Steve Lovell intends to bring in at least half a dozen new signings for a more positive campaign next season

great strides in doing so already.

"It all comes down to the budget though. No one has been released and as we finished the season so well I will give all the players a chance to be involved next season."

Lovell, a former Wales international, is looking forward to working alongside Patterson, another popular ex-Gill who succeeds Hugo

Langton as first team coach.

Patterson quit as Gillingham's youth team manager earlier this year to take charge of Ashford's Academy.

"I know Mark well and I'm looking forward to working with him," said Lovell. "He's already brought a lot to the club working with our youngsters."



BATTLE: Leon Camier leads team mate Max Biaggi as they fight over sixth place in race one

Camier's sixth round regret

SUPERBIKES

LEON Camier slipped to tenth in the World Superbike Championship standings after an eventful meeting in South Africa.

The Ashford rider entered the sixth round of the championship at the Kyalami circuit buoyed by a fourth and fifth gained at the last round in Monza. He continued to impress in Sunday's first race with a sixth place finish, but his weekend ended in disappointment with a retirement from race two.

Despite the visit to Kyalami being the 23-year-old's first, he soon got to grips with the undulating track and managed to secure eighth place on the grid in Saturday's qualifying session.

A quick getaway at the start of the first race saw Camier gain three positions by the first corner. He then made a move on team mate Max Biaggi, but he was re-passed by the Italian and dropped back to sixth place.

The remainder of the race saw him embroiled in a battle for fifth with former world champion James Toseland and Jonathan Rea. He eventually lost out to the pair and crossed the finish line in sixth.

Hopes for a podium finish in race two were over after just four laps, as tyre issues forced him to the back and a retirement followed on lap 17. The retirement saw Camier drop two places in the championship standings to tenth.

He'll be back in action on May 31 for round seven at America's Miller Motorsports Park.

ATHLETICS



EAGER: Lisa Dobriskey is looking forward to the beginning of her summer track season

Dobriskey back on track after injury

LISA Dobriskey will begin her build-up to July's European Athletics Championships by competing in her first outdoor race of the season at the Loughborough International this Sunday.

The Ashford-born athlete has completed a full recovery from a back injury which hampered her indoor season, and is eager to begin the summer track campaign.

The 26-year-old former Loughborough University student is due to take part in the 3000 metres on Sunday, as she begins to ramp up her training ahead of the European Championships in Barcelona in July.

Dobriskey has just returned to England from a session of altitude training in the Pyrenees.

She said: "To some extent I'm eager to get back racing but the first few races are always a bit nervy. I'm looking forward to getting my season underway. It's nice to be in the position I'm in now, being fit and injury free compared to last year."

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Namibian international cricketer Ray van Schoor talks about life in the Kent League

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